

Mary Van Der Werf, Elim Faith Community Nurse Coordinator

“Continuing Jesus’ mission of love and healing in our churches and communities”

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The Best of Times & the Worst of Times

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:12, 13

Is Christmas sometimes the best and the worst at the same time? Oh how I enjoy celebrating the birth of my Savior with my church family, friends and relatives. It is knowing that because of Christmas I can have the joy of being God’s child and a part of his forever family.

But then I met a family last week who had a phone call from a coroner in a distant state that their estranged son was found dead. They are in the midst of dealing with guilt, loss and utter disappointment. And it is Christmas.

As Faith Community Nursing permeates our churches, we are there to recognize just where people are at in their lives and surround them with caring, presence, acceptance and resources to either rejoice with them or grieve the losses they may be enduring.

Next time you glibly utter, “Merry Christmas”, recognize that not everyone is feeling so merry. Be a hope-giver and show them God’s unconditional love and care.

Mary Van Der Werf, Elim FCN Coordinator

UPCOMING DATES

January 25 – March 27, 2012 EFCA-Equip Faith Community Nurse Online Course – flyer attached
<http://www.efca.org/reachnational/compassion-and-justice/efca-faith-community-nurse-network/new-faith-community-nurse-co>

April 14, 2012 Elim Faith Community Nurse Networking at Coon Rapids EFC (9:15 – 11:30 AM)

April 16, 17, 2012 North Central EFCA District Conference, Constance Free, Andover

October 27, 2012 Elim Fall Faith Community Nurse Workshop, EFCA Home Office, Bloomington

RESOURCES

1. **Advanced Directives for each state:**

<http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3289>

2. **Additional FCN Basic Courses in 2012:** Weekends: April 20-21, May 4-5, May 18-19, 2012 or Monday-Friday: Oct 15-19, 2012 (St Paul, MN location) <http://www.fcntc.org/education-research.html#basicprep>

Concordia College (Moorhead) Course March 12-16, 2012 at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN

<http://www.cord.edu/Offices/parishnurse/assets/fall%20winter%202011%20newsletter.pdf>

3. Leigh Haislip Spencer, Faith Community Nurse at Valley Community Bible Church (EFCA) in Great Falls, Montana is quoted in the recent online EFCA Today which highlights the **top 10 risks in a church**. Great articles here. [HTTP://WWW.EFCATODAY.ORG/SITE/FEATURE/TOP-10-](http://www.efcatoday.org/site/feature/top-10-)

RISKS “Leigh Haislip Spencer, RN, BSN, MHS, FCN, is a faith community nurse at Valley Community Bible Church (EFCA) in Great Falls, Mont. As such, she participates in a health ministry committee—planning for medical scenarios and making suggestions to church leaders. She points out that “many congregations, even the smallest, have health-care providers and others among them willing to assist church leaders in emergency planning.”

4. **THE BODY, THE GIFTS AND DISABILITIES, A LOOK AT 1 CORINTHIANS 12**
<http://www.efcatoday.org/site/feature/the-body-the-gifts-and-disabilities>
“Those with disabilities are indispensable, honored, accommodated, God places and should contribute to unity, not division.”
5. **Family Health History.** Encourage others to talk about their family health history. See one family who did: http://www.kare11.com/news/article/950150/20/Why-you-need-to-record-family-health-history?fb_ref=artsharetop&fb_source=home_multiline.
6. **My Family Portrait.** A tool from the Surgeon General to assist you in making a family health history by listing illnesses, the age of onset, symptoms, treatment and outcome. <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/fhh-web/familyHistory/start.action>
7. **MN Safe Food Protocol for Faith Based Organizations changes.** Churches that are exempt from MN Food Code Licensing are now required to have trained staff and train volunteers in safe food handling practices. See the guidance document from Minnesota Department of Health (good clarification here) <http://www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety/away/groupsfaithex.pdf>. Statute can be seen at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=157.22> #12) food served at fund-raisers or community events conducted in the building or on the grounds of a faith-based organization, provided that a certified food manager, or a volunteer trained in a food safety course, trains the food preparation workers in safe food handling practices. This exemption does not apply to faith-based organizations at the state agricultural society or county fairs or to faith-based organizations that choose to apply for a license.
8. **RESOURCES FOR YOUR CHURCH’S EXPLORATION OF SPECIAL-NEEDS MINISTRY**
<http://www.efcatoday.org/site/feature/where-do-we-go-from-here>
9. Brotherhood Mutual’s online church **Safety Library** A wealth of **checklists, tips, sample forms** and tutorials on - children & youth; building & property; disaster, **emergencies & health**; foreign missions & travel; risk management; vehicles & drivers.
<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/index.cfm/resources/ministry-safety/>
10. **Summary of Benefits and Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act:** Helping Consumers Understand Their Coverage Options and Benefits <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/8244.cfm>. A new brief from the Kaiser Family Foundation explains the proposed federal rule that requires private health plans to provide a short, easy-to-read, uniform summary of benefits and coverage to all health insurance applicants and enrollees.
11. Want to order more of Dr. Addington’s book, *When Life Comes Undone?* Order from Next Step Resources, 800-444-2665 or at www.nsresources.com. **Item #:** 9781935651345. Cost \$12.00. Still coming – web site for Dr. Addington’s fall FCN workshop message, “The Theology of Suffering” and Mary Ann Addington’s notes from the workshop.

SHARE THE WEALTH! WHAT OUR FCN ARE DOING –

(TELL US YOUR STORY)

When did you have an experience in your Faith Community Nurse practice that you felt made a difference in the health (spiritually, emotionally, physically or socially) of your client or church? *(Let me know if you would like the church and names to be anonymous.)*

Faith Community Nurses make a difference in our churches! They bring people into the ‘family’ & keep them there too! Read these stories from one of our Faith Community Nurses.

“A new attender, HS, was hospitalized while her husband was out of town on business. The hospital chaplain called the church to let them know of the situation.

Intervention and result:

--The FCN telephoned HS in the hospital and got permission to put her on the church eprayer chain.

--The Visitation Pastor visited HS in the hospital.

--HS was so impressed; she called her husband out of town, and said “We really do have a home church now!”

“PL called the church wanting prayer for her 9 year old son, N, who had a platelet disorder. She was concerned about how their 6 year old son, J, was handling the diagnosis of his brother since it meant less rough-housing with him. She was also concerned that Children’s Ministry at church know about the diagnosis and the situation at home.

Intervention and result:

--The FCN let the Children’s Ministry, the Sunday School teachers and the Family Ministry pastor know.

--PL called the FCN to say how much easier it was to send N and J to Sunday School, knowing that the teachers were aware of the situation.”

DID YOU KNOW?

10,000 Americans turn 65 each day. By 2030 20% of US will be 65 and older
Americans over 85 years of age: in 2000 – 2.1 million; by 2050 – 21 million

ELIM/EFCA FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING ON THE WEB

ADD THESE LINKS TO YOUR CHURCH WEB SITE!

1. EFCA FCN Web <http://www.efca.org/reachnational/holistic-ministries/efca-faith-community-nurse-network>
2. EFCA North Central District web site <http://ncdefca.org/partnering-ministries/>
3. Elim Faith Community Nursing <http://www.elimcare.org/services/faith-community-nursing/>
4. EFCA Faith Community Nursing Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/EFCA-Faith-Community-Nurse-Network/168023133240261?ref=ts>

Think About It

Bioethics & the church need each other. The church needs an understanding of bioethics (end of life, infertility treatment, intercultural ministry, medicine & nursing, enhancement, counseling and more) to be able to help people as they face bioethical issues in their lives. Bioethics needs the church to enrich its understanding of how biblical truth impacts bioethical issues and how the body of Christ can prepare people for and help people through the bioethical challenges they face in their lives.

Adapted from The Center for Bioethics (Trinity) blog 11/9/11