

GCRO CAW

Guilford Council of Religious Organizations

College Activities of Worship

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A Newsletter of Guilford College Campus Ministry

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From the Back Bench...

By Max Carter

When Don and Britta McNemar arrived at Guilford six years ago, they brought with them a deep commitment to religious faith and have translated that into similarly deep involvement with the spiritual life of this community. From the outset, Don and Britta supported the work of campus ministry by regularly attending teas, forums, speakers, College Meeting for Worship, and Religious Emphasis Week events. Like the old saying about postal workers, very little could dissuade them from being present. They once trekked through two feet of snow to have supper at our house with REW speaker Huston Smith; they even showed up routinely at CMW when it was held at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays! Along with working at Guilford, this should

qualify them for a substantial discount on Purgatory!

Their commitment was ongoing and genuine. Many of our best programs and adjustments have come at the McNemars' suggestion.

Heck, they even read the GCRO *Caw*!

They brought the name of frequent visitor, singer/songwriter Carrie Newcomer, to our attention. Their initiative brought a number of Palestinian students to Guilford, resulting in powerful programs on the Middle East and a vigorous Muslim religious presence. They first put Friends Center in touch with Lea Williams at Bennett College, resulting in a valuable cooperative effort between

QLSP and Bennett's Women's Leadership Program. Don opened the door for Guilford to receive an invitation from Lilly Endowment to apply for funds in their Theological Exploration of Vocation program. The resulting \$2,000,000 grant has created the Guilford Initiative on Faith & Practice.

Don and Britta have celebrated with us at potlucks, weddings, square dances, barbecues, and sunrise services. They have mourned with us at memorial services for Dick Dyer, Ed Lowe, Betty Place, Ryan Bek, Emma Lupita Leverenz, and others. They helped us find way forward through intense discussions about racism, misunderstanding in Greensboro about the nature of stu-

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College Meeting for Worship

The spring semester's final College Meeting for Worship will take place on Sunday, May 5th. Don and Britta McNemar will lead the worship, which begins at 1:00 p.m. in the Moon Room. All are welcome. For further information, contact the Friends Center, ext. 2326.

Summer and Other Opportunities!

During the recent visit by Art and Peggy Gish, they encouraged Guilford students to consider the 4th summer workcamp at their intentional Christian community in Ohio, New Covenant Fellowship. From July 6-20, participants will explore faith and community, learn about simple living and nonviolent direct action, and share in the organic farm's garlic harvest, gardening, and worship.

There is no charge. For further information, check the flyer in the Hut or call Art Gish at 740-592-4605. You

could call Peggy, but she is off to Hebron for work with the Christian Peacemaker Teams!

Check out the flyers and magazines at the Hut for other opportunities: internships at William Penn House in D. C.; Ben Lomond Center in Santa Cruz, CA; Quaker summer camps all over the place; summer conferences at Pendle Hill!



From the Back Bench... (Continued from Page 1)

dent and faculty/staff activism, and the confusion and numbness following September 11.

Heck, they even read the GCRO *Caw!* That alone makes them singular people on campus!

The list could go on and on, but conservation efforts are in place to limit the use of paper. In a deeper way than merely listing the many ways Don and Britta have strengthened our spiritual life, though, I want to acknowledge what they have given us as we anticipate the end of Don's presidency. They have been models of the cardinal (and I don't mean Boston's Bernard Law!) virtues of this community: an inward and authentic connection with God; integrity; simplicity; equality; and peace.

About the latter four "testimonies," much could be said. They certainly integrate their faith into their lives; Don comes by his frayed suits honestly; Guilford has diversified tremendously under their stewardship; one of Don's first missions as president was to travel to North Korea with an American Friends Service Committee delegation. It is about the first testimony, authentic connection with God, that I want to share more fully, however.

In his visit to campus last

week, British Friend Ben Pink Dandelion gave a fascinating presentation on Quaker spirituality and Greek tragedy. Some of his insights offer helpful lenses through which to see more clearly a quality of the McNemars' spiritual lives that I have come to value highly. Ben noted that in classic "tragedy," one moves from a situation of despair and difficulty to one of hope and joy through an understanding of the providential hand of God. In Quaker history, Ben noted, Friends have tended to view the desperate situation in the world through a confidence in God's intent to establish the "peaceable kingdom" and to work for peace, equality, justice, and right with the trust that God's will is in the process of being ultimately fulfilled.

I certainly don't want to imply that Britta and Don are "tragic" figures, but Ben's description seems so appropriate for them! During the six years they have been at Guilford, times have often been tough. Don lost a mother and two siblings unexpectedly; Britta lost a mother as well as suffering a heart attack. Don had to face financial difficulties, curricular revision, charges of institutional racism, faculty and staff "right-sizing," the bookstore debate, and many difficult, confrontational meet-

ings, some of which I witnessed firsthand – and it wasn't pretty!

Britta very much wanted to help create community on campus but continued to experience a community deeply divided.

Through all this, they kept plugging away. Don maintained his smile, his affability, his indefatigable spirit of optimism for the College, and his 24/7 work schedule. Britta kept hosting gatherings at Ragsdale House, supporting students in both public and unobserved ways, and creating community by "being there." Their hope and joy was undergirded by a deep faith, nourished not only by their respective upbringings in Lutheran and Quaker homes but also by participation in the worship life of this and the wider community.

Thank you, Don and Britta, for all that you have given to Guilford and for your contributions to the spiritual life of the campus. Above all, thanks for modeling what it means to journey from difficulty to hope through dependence on the providence of God.

- Max Carter



Academy Award-nominated Film Comes to Campus

"Promises," a documentary film about Israeli and Palestinian young people coping with conflict, will be shown at

"Promises"

**7 p.m. Sunday May 5th
Dana Auditorium**

Guilford on Sunday, May 5, 7 pm in Dana Auditorium. Sponsored by Peace and Conflict Studies, Political Science, the Conflict Resolution Resource Center, Friends Center, and the Greensboro Peace & Justice Network, the film gives a riveting portrayal of normal lives

lived in abnormal circumstances.

Following the showing, a panel of Israelis, Palestinians, Jews, Christians, and Muslims will share impressions of the film and the Middle East conflict. The event is free and open to the public.

Concordance Caper!

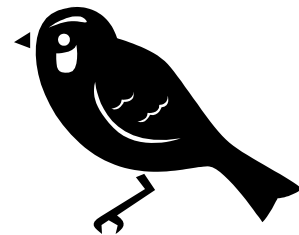
We here at Caper Control just about stumped the pack with the "ploughshares into swords" allusion from last time. Joan Mansfield called with the familiar "swords into ploughshares" passage in Isaiah 2:4, but didn't find the converse – even if she is an "all-star!" The correct answer of Joel 3:10 was phoned in by Eldora Terrell, one of Guil-

ford's Trustees. Nice to know that our Trustees not only have Guilford's best interests at heart – some have almost learned the Bible by heart!

For this last issue of the year, we draw from a fact that "a little bird" told us: one of Don and Britta McNemar's favorite hymns is "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." From where in the Bi-

ble is that reference drawn?

Call the Campus Ministry Office at 316-2445 with the answer, even if you are just winging it! And we certainly hope that God keeps her eye on Britta and Don as they fly off from Guilford.



Baccalaureate Coming Soon By Katie Murphy

The Baccalaureate is a time of spiritual reflection for graduates and their families and friends.

This ceremony occurs each year followed by an Open House at Ragsdale House, the evening before Commencement. This year we will have two speakers, Dianne Johnson and David Kaplan, who will share their reflections of what

Guilford has done in relation to their spiritual basis and spiritual

**Baccalaureate
Ceremony
6-7pm Friday May 10th
Dana Auditorium**

journey(s). Eva Shaw and Coleman Watts will lead the Quaker

Worship in which all guests are welcome to participate. Musical selections will be performed after each student's participation by the Guilford College Choir, the Gospel Choir, and the A Capella group. The service will end with a final message and benediction and a song, "Simple Gifts", that everyone will be invited to participate in.

Campus Ministry Award Goes to Dianne Johnson and Zarinaha Russell

Dianne Johnson, clerk of GCRO, and Zarinaha Russell, director of the Guilford Gospel Choir, are this year's recipients of the Judith Weller Harvey Award in Campus Ministry. The annual award goes to graduating seniors who have made a significant con-

tribution to spiritual and interfaith life during their time at the College.

In addition to her work with GCRO, Dianne is active in the Guilford Christian Fellowship as a Bible Study and small group leader. Zee has contributed to the

flourishing worship groups that meet in the Moon Room Sunday mornings and has assisted the Office of African American Affairs in providing vital religious programming.

Congratulations Dianne and Zee!

CELEBRATION DAYS

Coming Soon...

April 28 On this day **Jamal** (Beauty), the third Baha'i month begins.

April 29 The ninth day of **Ridvan** (which commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the garden of Ridvan) is the day on which Baha'is suspend work.

April 30 – May 4 **Ghambar Maidyozarem** is the Zoroastrian celebration of the creation of sky and of the harvesting of winter crops.

May 1 **Beltane** (also called Beltain, May Eve [April 30] and May Day) celebrates the conjoining of the infinite potential of the Goddess with the life-sparking energy of the God in a sacred marriage, the basis of all creation. This Wiccan observance is a time for balancing the feminine and masculine tides within the psyche as each celebrant prepares to participate in bringing the creative potential of the year to fruition.

May 2 **National Day of Prayer (USA)**
World Press Freedom Day (UN)
Twelfth and concluding day of **Ridvan**.

May 9 Ascension Day is the anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven and enthronement as universal sovereign.

May 11 **Guilford College Commencement!**

Ongoing Groups and Activities

Daily: 8:05 – 8:20 a.m., **Unprogrammed worship** in the manner of Friends, the Hut.

Monday: 3:30 p.m. **Jewish Learning Session**, the Hut;
5:00 p.m. **Peace Vigil**, courthouse downtown;
6:00 p.m. **Al Anon Meeting**, the Hut.

Tuesday: 12 noon – 1:00 p.m., **Community Prayer and Worship**, the Hut (join students and staff in brief readings, prayer, and other spiritual exercises as the Spirit leads);
6:00 p.m. **GCRO Meeting**, the Hut;
9:00 p.m. **Hillel meeting**, the Hut.

Wednesday: 5:30 p.m. **Midweek Meeting for Worship**, the Hut (unprogrammed worship in the manner of Friends);
6:00 p.m. **Buddhist Meditation Group**, the Hut;
7:00 p.m. **Pagan Mysticism Group**, the Hut.;
8:30 p.m. **Quaker Concerns**, the Hut.

Thursday: 7:00 p.m. **Res. Deliverance Ministries Bible Study**, Moon Room;
8:00 p.m. **Prayer with Guilford Christian Fellowship**, Founders second floor.

Friday: 12:45 p.m. **Group Investigating God**, Contact Erich Welch (x3854) for location;

Saturday: 10:00 am Women's small group **Bible Study**, Apt. 721.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. **Res. Deliverance Ministries Disciple Class**, Moon Room;
9:00 a.m. **Resurrection Deliverance Ministries Service**, Moon Room;
11:00 a.m. **Rhema Triumphal Ministries**, Moon Room;
1:00 p.m. **College Meeting for Worship**, Moon Room;
3:00 p.m. **Senegalese Community Worship**, Moon Room;
5:00 p.m. **Group Investigating God** with Dianne Johnson, Apt. 721.

Lecture on Islam

The Islamic Center of Greensboro presents a lecture, "Towards a Better Understanding of Islam" by renowned scholar, Dr. Jamal Badawi. Dr. Badawi is a professor at St. Mary's University in Halifax, Canada. His talk will include issues such as Muslim~ Non-Muslim Relations, Jihad, and Women's Rights. The lecture takes place 2:30– 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28th at the Harrison Auditorium at NC A&T University on Nocho Street. It is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 834-9968 or 686-6944.