



Spirituality and Grief Newsletter

Winter / Spring 2009



Imagine the largest meeting space in your place of worship filled to overflowing with members attending a grief seminar! Can't get that picture? I can't either because, realistically, it's not going to happen. Grief education and support meetings are usually very small, but they minister in a large way to those who are hurting. We didn't need someone to direct traffic and park cars that Saturday when I presented two grief education seminars at Back Creek Presbyterian Church. What happened, though, was perhaps more powerful; a group of individuals came together to learn, share, and build supportive relationships that will help sustain them in the days to come.

Those two seminars were specifically about coping with the loss of a parent, and helping seniors handle grief. However, we have many other programs, and we can customize presentations to address the specific needs of your faith community. I would be happy to talk to you in greater detail about how Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region (HPCCR) can support you in your grief education efforts. In this month's newsletter, you will find a select list of our presentations to assist you as you plan your educational offerings this year. Also included in this issue is information about our upcoming Chameleon's Journey Minicamp and some other events that you won't want to miss. As always, I welcome your comments and your feedback. Feel free to email or call me directly.

Larry Dawalt, M.Div.

Director of Spiritual & Grief Care Services

704.335.4327

<http://www.hpccr.org>

704.375.0100

Grief Education Programs

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the following educational opportunities. We would be happy to offer any of these programs to your membership and can also create a program to your specific needs. To read a description of any of these presentations, please click [here](#).

- Overview of Grief and Loss
- Grief and Loss over the Holidays
- How Children Grieve
- Masculine and Feminine Grief
- Death of a Parent in Adulthood (Adult Orphans)
- Ministry Needs of the Dying
- Anticipatory Grief and Dementia
- How to Help Someone Who is Grieving
- Overview of Hospice and Palliative Care
- Advance Care Planning

Speaking of Support. . .

Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region welcomes your members to join us in our eight-week support groups- "Grief- The Reluctant Journey". We would also consider conducting one of these groups on-site at your faith community. For more information, contact [Gerri Cummings](#) at 704.335.4334. For a complete listing of dates and times, visit the [calendar of events](#) on our [website](#).

Grief and Children

2009 marks the 10th year of [Chameleon's Journey](#), our overnight grief camp for children ages 7-16 who have lost a loved one. This year's camp will take place October 17-18 at Camp Thunderbird in Lake Wylie, SC. We will also have a spring "mini camp" at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church in Charlotte on Saturday, March 28, from 9am - 1pm. If you are interested in either of these events, or would like brochures for the fall overnight camp, please contact [Gerri Cummings](#) at 704.335.4334. Also, please encourage the staff member at your community of faith who works specifically with children to contact [Larry Dawalt](#) for more information about ministering to children in grief. You can click on the link to read his brief article "[Ten Lessons from the Children](#)". It should get you thinking.

National Bereavement Teleconference

Please join us at the [Levine & Dickson Hospice House](#) on Wednesday, April 29 for the 2009 National Bereavement Teleconference. The topic this year will be "Diversity and End-of-Life Care", focusing on ways of understanding diversity and how cultural histories, traditions, and beliefs can affect end-of-life care. The program will begin at 1:30pm and will last until 4pm. A panel discussion will immediately follow the presentation. For more information, please contact [Larry Dawalt](#) at 704.335.4327.