



A NEWSLETTER OF THE CATAWBA CLERGY NETWORK

Catawba Clergy Days October 26 - 27 “Rooted to Rise”

Our Fifth Annual Catawba Clergy Days will be in person and on campus this year. We encourage everyone to register by Oct. 23 at <https://catawba.edu/clergydays>. This year's theme is “Rooted to Rise.” In churches, societies and a world where challenges and divisions from illness and theological divisions to environmental challenges and political divisions, being solidly rooted in faith is our only solid and true hope.

We hope that you will join us as we hear a dynamic and inspiring speaker, Dr. Kate Bowler, and as we engage in workshops designed to grow and deepen our roots.

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES

- + Dr. Michael Bitzer of Catawba - “Speaking Across Differences”
- + Dr. Patrick Swaney of Catawba - “Creative Writing for Pastors”
- + Cat Fire, a Catawba Grad and Acting Director of the Discover program will lead - “Youth Ministry Now”
- + Dr. John Morrison of Catawba's Center for the Environment will be joined by Marqus Cole of the Evangelical Environmental Network - Environmental Stewardship Resources for Local Congregations”
- + Artist Cely Chicurel of Chapel Hill will offer a hands-on experience in art and rootedness.
- + Rev. Jimmy Gibbs of the UCC will lead “Safe Space for Clergy Healing”
- + A workshop on grant writing for clergy, with friends from The Conservation Fund, an effective grant driven group.
- + “Doing Church Differently” with LaShauna Austria from The Farm Church in Durham
- + Opportunities for Yoga practice and time to spend walking the Catawba labyrinth in the Chapel will make this an opportunity you will not want to miss.

Register by 10/23

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Thanks for reading!

“Everything Happens” lecture and lunch with Dr. Kate Bowler

Bestselling author, Duke Divinity
professor, podcast host and much more.



Kate Bowler is the director of “Everything Happens” center at Duke University where she has been a professor of American Christianity. Her two bestselling books, *Everything Happens for a Reason (and other lies I have loved)*, and *No Cure for Being Human* connect with her challenges of being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer as a young mother with a vital career. She has also authored books on the American Prosperity Gospel, *Blessed* and the *Preacher’s Wife: Precarious Power of Evangelical Women Celebrities*.

Kate’s popular podcast “**Everything Happens**” has more than 15 million downloads. In her life, books and podcasts she loves to challenge the cliches we use to think about success and failure, life and suffering.

Her website, katebowler.com has insights, information, inspiration, free stuff for churches and church leaders, and even a page with blessings for many of the needs of our daily lives that include grief, love, garbage and the ordinary.

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE CLERGY NETWORK IS NAMED



WILLIAM HOYLE JOINS TEAM AFTER LONG PASTORATE

“Bill” Hoyle comes to the Clergy Network after over 21 years as pastor of the Clemmons Presbyterian Church in Clemmons, NC. Bill moved to Salisbury in May with his wife Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle and came to the Clergy Network at the end of August. Bill graduated from Greensboro College, Princeton, Southeastern and Union Presbyterian seminaries with an M.Div., Th.M. and D.Min. He has been part of several clergy cohort groups and the receipt of fellowships for sabbaticals and clergy development. Bill and Felicia have children in New Jersey and South Carolina. Bill is sharing this position with a colleague yet to be called.

Help Us Grow the Clergy Network

The Episcopal Priest down the street, or the Baptist Pastor you met the next county over, the colleague from seminary you hear from only occasionally or that Methodist who was recently assigned a charge near you – wonder if they have a group of colleagues that can share the joys and challenges of pastoral ministry?

The Catawba Clergy Network is here to support the ministry of parish clergy, and your recommendation might be the most powerful selling point in growing the network. Many clergy don't share their professional challenges with anyone and are hesitant to share with those who don't understand and have not "walked that walk."

Joining the Clergy Network is the first step to joining a powerful Community of Practice group, meeting monthly with a trained facilitator and receiving financial support to enhance ministry. Invite someone you know to explore joining the Catawba Clergy Network and consider a Community of Practice group. Groups are assembled around a variety of topics, from location to stage in ministry to topics and more. With so many clergy struggling now, your reference might be more important than you can imagine.

A BLESSING FOR CAREGIVERS

from – Kate Bowler's

"The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days"

blessed are we
for whom the call to loving action is still strong,
whose every urge is to keep going, keep working,
and not to count the cost.
and yet blessed are we,
beginning to notice that we are slowing down, inexplicably,
or just pausing, staring for no reason,
or starting something,
but then quickly turning to another demand.
blessed are we,
realizing that we are beginning to lose the thread.
blessed are we who say
I really can't keep going like this,
at this pace, under this weight,
and also, the momentum is so strong, I can't stop.
God, come and be the hands that sit me down
and keep me there long enough
for me to really feel what I feel,
and know what I know.
come and be the wisdom
to find the support system that is broad enough,
kind enough, effective enough to meet the needs that are here
– both mine and theirs.
come and be the peace that frees me
to let my hands lie gently open awhile,
the grace to just receive.
seek the rest you need, and a little bit more.
it is a sacred space.

<https://katebowler.com/guide/caregiving-care-package/>