

Monthly Newsletter

November, 2025



Can You Feel the JOY? *Celebrating 50 Years of Faith, Healing, Love, and Legacy in ACTheals.*



President's Corner

Last week, many of us gathered under the tent at the Marywood Conference Center to celebrate Jesus, our Joy Giver. We heard from leading speakers and workshop presenters. We met new friends and renewed old friendships, being drenched in the love and mercy of our Lord. And celebrate we did—the joy and blessings of being God's people! This is just the beginning of a year of revival for ACT, which I will write to you about later this month.

Recently, I was meditating on a verse from Proverbs and how friendships allow us to bloom where we are planted—meaning where we live, work, and minister. We are all called to bloom, to be a part of ACT's ministry.

Peonies are special to me because they've found their way into my flowerbeds, coming from family and others (friends, nursery stock, neighbors). I have all kinds and colors, and I have them in three special beds. I have all kinds: from singles, to double pink, to rose, to my favorite—the red-tipped double white. When they bloom, they give their all, showing off for the glory of God for all to see. Most came from my Grandpa Steinbauer to my mom to me, and others came from neighbors or nursery friends. Each raises its bloom toward heaven, opening to give glory to God. This is what Jesus is asking of us: to give glory to Him through our lives, our ministries, and our activities in ACT. As each plant gives glory to God, I am reminded of the people who gave them to me. They are a living tribute from those I love who have passed on to eternal life and from those friendships that surround me. This month, we celebrate the living saints in our lives (All Saints Day) and those who have gone on before us into heaven (All Souls Day). We end November giving thanks to God for all His blessings (Thanksgiving) and for how these blessings send us forth to bloom where we are planted—in family, work, and the anointed ministry we are called to do.

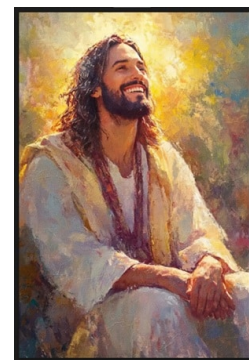
May you feel these blessings deep within your being this month as I pray this scripture for you from Numbers: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon them, and I will bless them.

Kris Sendelbach, RN,
Your Servant Leader

ACTheals News

[The Release of the Journal of Christian Healing 50th Anniversary Issue](#)

The 50th anniversary issue of the Journal of Christian Healing is a celebration of our shared journey in ACTheals. For fifty years, health professionals have come together in this organization to dedicate their skills and faith to healing prayer. In this milestone issue, Judith MacNutt shares how her husband Francis MacNutt's vision inspired the birth of ACTheals, creating a place where health professions could support one another and bring hope to their clients through healing prayer.



This special issue features reflections from twenty past leaders and notable members, each describing what ACTheals has meant in their lives and ministries. It also honors our presidents and honorary members, recognizing the dedication and leadership that have shaped our community.

Since 1979, the Journal of Christian Healing has been a resource for stories, research, and inspiration—first in print and now online. We are grateful to editors Len Sperry, Robin Caccese, and Douglas Schoeninger for their commitment to excellence and service.

As we mark this milestone, let us celebrate the healing, faith, and fellowship that define ACTheals, and look forward to continuing our mission together. Contact info@actheals.org for more information about the Journal of Christian Healing.

This article was created with the assistance of Microsoft 365 Copilot AI.



Dr. Benjamin Keyes Receives Honorary Membership at the ACTheals International Conference

Dr. Benjamin Keyes, PhD, EdD, DMin, DDiv, was honored with honorary membership in ACTheals during this year's International Conference, recognizing his monumental service to the ministry.

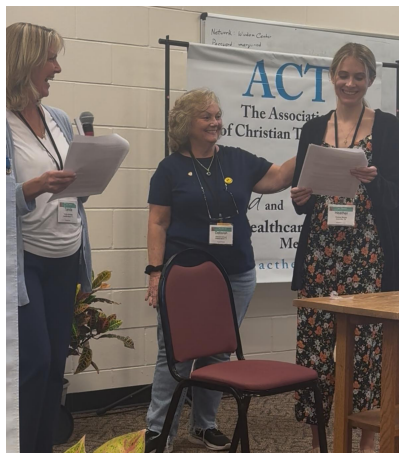
Dr. Keyes serves as Executive Director of The Green Cross Academy for Traumatology, Professor at Divine Mercy University, Director of Training and Internship, and Director for the Center for Trauma and Resiliency Studies.

At the conference, Dr. Keyes delivered an insightful presentation titled, "Joy is for Everyone Else Except Me: Cognitive and Spiritual Distortions of Christians Experiencing Trauma." In this special session, he explored the essence of self and God's forgiveness, offering participants an experiential encounter with a loving, caring God who desires peace and fellowship with each of us.

Dr. Keyes is a frequent contributor to the Journal of Christian Healing and a valued workshop and plenary speaker for ACTheals. Since joining ACT in July 1989, he has been an active member of the Psychotherapists Specialty Group and served as an At-Large Board member, completing his term in 2015.

We celebrate Dr. Keyes' dedication, wisdom, and compassionate leadership, which continue to enrich the ACTheals community and the broader field of Christian healing.

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New Member Spotlight: Heather Blaney, LCSW

We are delighted to welcome Heather Blaney, LCSW to ACTheals as the newest member of our Psychotherapists Specialty Group. Heather brings valuable experience and compassion to our community, and we are excited for her to be a part of ACTheals. Please join us in warmly welcoming Heather—we look forward to the contributions and insights she will share with us!

Support and Prayer Groups

HOSTED MONTHLY | VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON GATHERINGS



Upcoming Events

Support and Prayer Groups

ACTheals **support and prayer groups** are hosted monthly by regional coordinators, offering both virtual and in-person gatherings. These sessions provide ACTheals members with valuable opportunities for healing and fellowship, supporting them as they continue their healthcare and prayer ministries. Through these groups, members can connect, share experiences, and receive the encouragement they need to thrive in their spiritual and professional journeys. The **newcomer's monthly online group** is open to new ACTheals members, interested persons in ACTheals and members who may be interested in mentoring or just need some extra prayer time. ACTheals members, be on the lookout for this month's e-blast for more details about November's regional support and prayer groups!

To request more information, contact Angeli at apemberton@actheals.org.

ACTheals International Conference 2026: Change Our Hearts

"I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and call you to live by my statutes." Ezekiel 36:26-27

Kanuga Conference Center, 130 Kanuga Chapel Drive Hendersonville, NC 28739
October 22-25, 2026

Speakers, Chaplains, and Workshop Presenters to be announced on website actheals.org.



Daily Prayer for ACTheals:

Gracious God, thank You for the gift of ACTheals, and for those You have called to membership, past, present and future. I lift each one to You now and ask that You intervene in their lives with the power of your Holy Spirit. Anoint today each member to the ministry to which You call them. Bless them, their families, and their work, and unite all members with You and each other, that as each opens to You, Your will may be done and Your people healed, for the glory of Your name. We ask by the power of Your Holy Spirit, You touch the hearts and minds of all young healthcare professionals. Give them a hunger and thirst for You, Jesus, that they may desire to be healers with Your own Heart, and continue the healing work that You have begun through ACTheals. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.



ACTheals: Where God and Healthcare Meet

*This is the official newsletter for ACTheals (Formerly known as the Association of Christian Therapists). Member **comments**, **suggestions** and **submissions** are appreciated. Submissions are preferred with a digital photo, or else, a prior one from our files will be used. Member names can be withheld by request. Contact Angeli at apemberton@actheals.org.*

ACTheals is a Christ-centered association of healthcare professionals, clergy, religious and associates who seek to integrate healing prayer to give full expression of God's love in their professions, ministries and personal lives.

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ACTheals
1700 Skyline Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421
Phone: (502) 632-3036

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