



ACTheals
Working in the Healthcare Community since 1975



Monthly Newsletter

August 2026



President's Corner

On calm, warm summer days as dusk turns into darkness, I am greeted by dozens (even though it feels like hundreds) of fireflies lighting up the night sky outside my window. They are so bright, so many of them that I can almost read by their light. Only the male fireflies shine their light--it's their mating call to the females. What amazes me the most is how bright their light is for all to see.

This reminds me of a song we often sang when I led a music ministry for a local prayer group when I lived in Rochester, MN. The song is called The Light of Christ.

It goes like this:

(refrain) The Light of Christ has come into the world. (sung twice)

Verse1: All men must be born again to see the kingdom of God;
The water and the Spirit bring new life in God's love.

Verse 2: God gave up His only Son out of love for the world;
so that all men who believe in Him will live forever.

Verse 3: The Light of God has come to us so that we might have salvation;
From the darkness of our sins we walk into glory with Christ Jesus.

Do we have the confidence of Jesus to let our light so shine before others, with the same confidence these fireflies have in shining their personal light before others each night? Or do we let fear rule our lives and time? As we continue to enjoy our summer nights, may we be like the fireflies, shining our light, the light of Jesus and His love for all to see and feel.

In closing, I bless each of you to be Jesus' light and love to the world. To shine so brightly that others can see the way to Jesus and read by that light. And for the sturdy wings of each firefly as we move around ministering Jesus' healing light, love to all we encounter.

Kris Sendelbach, RN
Your Servant Leader

Regional News

The Healing Church: Embodying the Spirit of St. Basil's Vision in the 21st Century







The Pacific West Region gathered for a dynamic and inspiring retreat centered on "The Healing Church According to St. Basil's Vision," exploring the Church's enduring call to be a community of healing, compassion, and hope, not merely as a historical ideal, but as a living mission entrusted to every believer today.

The retreat opened with a thought-provoking presentation by Fr. Alexei Smith, who traced the historical roots of the Church's healing ministry through the vision of St. Basil the Great of the 4th century. Drawing from the witness of the early Christian community, Fr. Alexei highlighted how the Church was called to care for the sick, the poor, and those marginalized by society, by embodying Christ's compassion through both spiritual and practical acts of mercy.

Building upon this foundation, Joseph Rodrigues offered a contemporary perspective demonstrating how the healing community of the early Church continues to shape

healthcare services of the twenty-first century. His presentation illustrated the profound influence of Christian values on the development of hospitals and holistic models of care, focusing on the impact of the twelve-step recovery communities emphasizing that Christ centered models of healing are central to the healing process.

The retreat concluded with an engaging panel discussion composed of professionals from diverse vocations including medicine, psychotherapy, nursing, chaplaincy and entertainment, focusing on shifting one's awareness to building Christ-centered models of healing and recovery. Each panelist shared personal experiences of integrating Christ's healing ministry into their professional lives offering powerful testimonies of faith in action, encouraging participants to recognize their own call to be instruments of God's healing wherever they serve.

The retreat concluded with a healing service led by Lori Mountain, commissioning those in attendance to continue Christ's ministry in the workplace, parishes and communities. Participants were encouraged to embrace the Gospel mandate found in Matthew 10:8, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

Empowered by prayer and renewed in mission, attendees departed inspired to embody the healing presence of Jesus in a world longing for hope, restoration, and compassionate witness. Click the link below to see the whole event on our YouTube channel!

[ACTheals YouTube](#)

ACTheals Announcements



ACTheals *(Acts 4:8-10)*

Advancing Christ Centered Healthcare – one healer at a time

Change Our Hearts

2026 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

October 22-25, 2026

Kanuga Conference Center | Hendersonville, NC

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

Ezekiel 36:26

PLENARY SPEAKER



Dr. John McGraw, MD

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



Rev. John
Rice



Dr. Wendy
Hofman



Fr. Paul
Feider



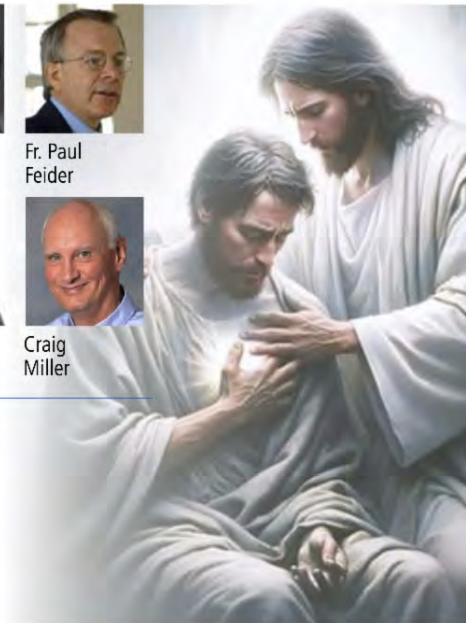
Rev. Dr. Benjamin
McEntire



Dr. Ben
Keyes



Craig
Miller



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Dr. Charles Zeiders

CATHOLIC PRIEST



Fr. Foster Orlator

MUSICIAN



Christopher McLoughlin

www.actheals.org

<https://actheals.org/2026-international-conference/>

Change Our Hearts: 2026 International Conference

Conference registration is open, and our speakers are listed above. Member registration options have been reduced through contributions. Payment plan options are available. We invite you to visit the link below to learn more and register.

[Visit Conference Page](https://actheals.org/2026-international-conference/)



ACTheals
Working in the Healthcare Community since 1975

Your Gift Heals

Support Christ-Centered Healthcare Ministry



Donate Today

Website Building Campaign

All gifts matched dollar-for-dollar to launch a stronger digital presence

Good News!

ACTheals is increasing in activity, membership and presence on social media! To increase our visibility and engage the community, ACTheals is in great need to update its website.

The expenses needed for this important project will offer a more accessible and user-friendly website that is easy to navigate. Greater awareness of ACTheals and its mission purpose is necessary in order to continue to serve the community through Christ-centered healing provided at our many conferences, retreats, prayer groups and training programs.

ACTheals needs **YOU** to help carry out its important dynamic mission to empower healthcare professionals, clergy, religious and prayer ministers to bring Christ's healing to others.

Even Better News!

Your gift goes twice as far! ACTheals has received an anonymous matching funds challenge up to \$5000.00 for this project. Your donation will now have double the impact!

Your donation will be matched and provide the needed support to fund our website building project.

- \$100.00=\$200.00
- \$200.00=\$400.00
- \$500.00=\$1000.00

The deadline is **October 21, 2026**, before the International Conference. Donations can be made online or mailed to the ACTheals office designated for the **Website**

Project at:

ACTheals
1700 Skyline Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421
502.632.3036

Let's bring in the potential \$10,000 or maybe even more!

With much blessings and appreciation.

"Everyone must give according to what one has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

[Click Here to Donate!](#)

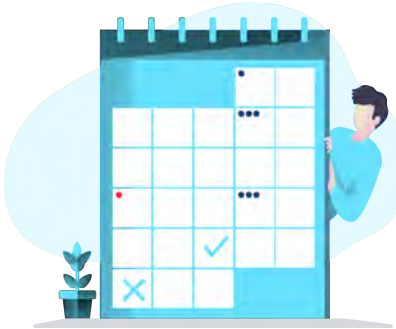


National Immunization Awareness Month

This National Immunization Awareness Month, we honor the sacred calling of Christian healthcare professionals who bring healing and protection to our communities.

Immunization is an act of love. When we administer vaccines, we protect and care for whole people—body, mind, soul, and spirit. We extend Christ's healing through prevention, enabling people to live fuller, healthier lives.

As Christian healthcare workers—nurses, physicians, chaplains, therapists—your commitment to immunization reflects your deepest calling: to heal and serve others in Christ's name.



Monthly Event and Social Media Content Submission Forms

Do you have an event coming up or an idea for our social media that you would like to advertise? Please fill out our recently updated Monthly Event Submission and Social Media Content Forms! **To guarantee your event will be posted, please fill out the form at least 2 weeks prior to your event.**

[ACTheals Monthly Event Submission Form](#)

[Social Media Content Submission Form](#)

Welcome New and Rejoining Members!

We are delighted to welcome new and/or rejoining ACTheals members:

Marianne and Barbara

Your presence enriches us, and we look forward to growing together in faith, sharing in healing experiences, and celebrating God's work in our lives. May you find encouragement, friendship, and spiritual growth as part of our ACTheals family.



Upcoming Regional Events

Healing Prayer Community Meeting
Monday, August 10th | 7:00PM ET

Join us for Healing Prayer on Zoom. All are invited! We will come together for a time of worship and quieting. If you have a scripture verse that spoke to you during the

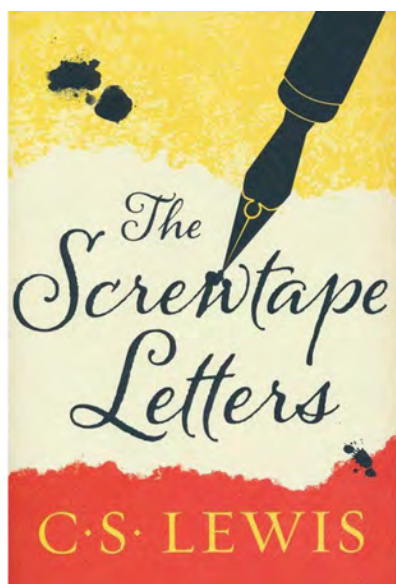
week, bring it to our group during our prayer time. Those who have a reading will read it and leave about a minute of quiet time for all to absorb it.

After people have shared their readings and we have had another song of worship, we will share what you heard God say as the readings are read. Then we will breakout into rooms for individual prayer for healing and empowerment from the Holy Spirit and will have a final song of worship.



Contact Tamila Hennessy for more information at thennessy774@gmail.com.

[Request the Zoom Link](#)



**Pacific West - LA Chapter Monthly
Prayer Group
Sunday, August 30 | 6:00PM PST**

The Pacific West Region is offering a monthly prayer group engaging members in a reflective discussion on C.S. Lewis's book, *The Screwtape Letters*. This month's meeting will focus on letters 16-18 followed by prayer.

Lewis reveals how some of the greatest spiritual battles are fought in the most ordinary moments of daily life and that spiritual growth is less

often hindered by dramatic sin than by quiet habits of pride, comfort, and self-focus. Through *Screwtape's* ironic advice, readers are challenged to examine their own hearts in surprising ways.

Join us as we explore these timeless insights and reflect on how spiritual growth transforms our hearts, leading us to bear the fruit of the Spirit through humility, contentment, and genuine love (Galatians 5:22-23).

The meeting will conclude with a time for praise, worship and intercessory prayer. Each member is encouraged to keep a journal for the purpose of examining the inner movement of the Holy Spirit leading one toward deeper intimacy with God.

For the Zoom link, email Bernadette St. James at nbstjames@gmail.com, the LA/Pacific Regional Coordinator by using the link below.

[Request the Zoom Link](#)

ACTheals: Where God and Healthcare Meet

Vision Statement: To remain an influential Spirit-filled organization advancing Christ's healing worldwide.

Mission Statement: To heal and empower healing professionals to bring Christ's healing to others.



*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 Mitchell at **mpetredis@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. Our members have been working in healthcare since 1975.



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Membership Brochure

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