

Dear Friends,

Our recent chapel survey provided us with some really encouraging data. Did you know that 57% of our traditional on-campus students share their faith with a stranger regularly? To me, this is outstanding. Another significant statistic is that 90% of our students regularly attend church. Honestly, I did a happy dance when I received this news. For the past five years, our strategic plan included increased church attendance for our students.

Sharing our faith is not easy, and I can honestly say that I work at it as much as anyone. Were it not for the strength I receive from the Holy Spirit, I would not share my faith with anyone. In a recent conversation, the Holy Spirit reminded me about my role in developing faith in another person ([1 Cor. 3:6-8](#)).

I have discovered that one must plan to engage in meaningful conversations about faith. There is a difference between a person who is defensive about their faith and one who is ready to defend their faith. Defending what you believe means that you have previously thought about what you believe, and you are prepared to share in a Christ-like, loving way. Think about this idea: The next time a person says they don't believe the Bible is God's word, ask them how they came to that conclusion. By asking this question, you are giving them an open door to express the evidence that supports their conclusion. Most of the time, people will not answer you from a place of cynicism, but rather will express a popular opinion. You might respond by asking if they have ever investigated the evidence for themselves. Most likely, they have not, and you might be able to help them reconsider their position. You could ask them if they know that there are over 140 details in the book of Acts and the gospel of John alone which have been verified as correct. This strongly implies that the writers were either eyewitness or had access to eyewitness testimony. Or, you might see if they have considered that the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls provided evidence that the scribes copied the Scriptures accurately over 1,000 years. Of course, as we share the evidence that supports our faith, we must remember that we are not car salesmen, but rather representatives of the God who loves them and wants them to live their best life. Love must always be our driving motive in sharing our faith.

*Lord, help us to be the best representative of you and your kingdom. As we plant a seed, Holy Spirit, please bring power to our words and renewed faith to the lives of those whom we encounter. Help us not to see people as strangers, but as fellow travelers who need help with the direction of their lives. May we study your Word and know the truth, so that our words have Spirit-empowered wisdom. Amen.*

### **COMING UP THIS WEEK**

**Mon, April 15** | Liturgical Rhythms: Sarah Jobson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Mon, April 15** | Throwback Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

**Tues, April 16** | Courageous Conversations: Faith in Politics\* | Millard Theatre, 7pm

**\*Spiritual Life Credit Offered**

**Wed, April 17** | Awards & Honors Chapel\* | Butterfield Chapel, 10:40am **\*One-Chapel**

### ***Schedule***

**Fri, April 19** | UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY

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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges

