

Post chapel offers wide range of services

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, USAWC Public Affairs

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When you say chapel to many people the first thing that comes to mind is religious services. However on many Army posts, that is only a fraction of what the chapel has to offer and Carlisle Barracks is no different.

“This chapel is very busy,” said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Wicks, non-commissioned officer in charge of religious activities. “The building is almost always in use for everything from scout meetings, to choir rehearsals to bible studies.”

Due to the large number of retirees in the Carlisle area the chapel has a robust volunteer army. “A lot of things that I used to have to do at other chapels, such as preparing for services, are done by the volunteers,” said Wicks. “The volunteers also check up on me, which is also nice” he said with a smile.

Wicks, who comes to Carlisle Barracks from the 82nd Airborne Division, says that he likes working at the chapel here.

“It is different, not what I expected, but a nice change of pace. Here I am able to focus on the chapel. Before I was more focused on deploying, I was in Iraq for 15 months, came home for a year, then redeployed back to Iraq for a year, was home for a year, then deployed to Afghanistan for a year. Here, I don’t have to do that I can focus on the building.”

Along with holding religious services, the chapel staff tries to reach out to members of the Carlisle Barracks community in many different ways.

“Last month we held our first geographical bachelor dinner,” said Wicks. “We are going to try to do one each month, and the next one is on Oct. 20th at 6 p.m.” On Nov. 16 the chapel will host a Soldiers Thanksgiving lunch for Carlisle Barracks Soldiers.

The chapel also provides counseling to help military personal heal with combat trauma. On Nov. 3 and 4 the chapel will host retired Col. Keith Morgan and retired Col. Mark Benz, who will discuss programs associated with the spiritual dimension of health and healing in the military.

To find out more information on service times and other chapel activities go to:

<http://carlislebarracks.carlisle.army.mil/installation/religious.cfm>

Or you can check out their Facebook page, USAWC Memorial Chapel, at:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Carlisle-PA/US-Army-War-College-Memorial-Chapel/1198423114042>

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