

## **9/11/2001 on 9/11/2012**

On 9/11 we in the Chaplaincy remember those who lost their lives on this day eleven years ago. We are gathering with the leaders of our Interfaith student groups on campus and in a moment of silence will hold those lost in our hearts. Last year, on the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we held a university wide commemorative service. This year it is time for each individual to connect with what this day means for them. We invite individuals to pray or meditate as their spirits lead them. Goddard Chapel and the Interfaith Center are open for private reflection. We invite the Tufts community, as we remember those who died on American soil, to also remember all those who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the military, or as civilians, as we acknowledge the terrible cost of war-time violence.

I was the Interim University Chaplain on September 11, 2001, when the attacks occurred. We gathered as a community at Tufts, the President spoke, The Chaplains each spoke, the Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, and Jewish Chaplains, and we were united in our shock and grief. We were also aware that because the perpetrators of the attack were Muslim, albeit extremists, sentiment against Muslims could arise. We were committed to protecting every member of our community, standing together as we stood by all who lost loved ones, and mourning our lost sense of our national invulnerability.

Today, as we remember, we look toward the future and embrace the possibility of peace in the face of the terrible tragedies surrounding hatred and the violence of war of which we are reminded on this day. We work for peace because we honor life.

Patricia Budd Kepler