



SPECIAL
ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2008

from the Executive Director

Patricia J. Gibboney, CFRE

As I look back on the past year, I do so with much gratitude and appreciation for all those individuals, groups, and congregations who continue to support the mission of The Spirituality Network.

The celebration of our 20th Anniversary began with a generous gift of \$25,000, which was to be used as a challenge to others who might be inclined to make a gift honoring the occasion. What a tremendous response we had! We received \$34,641 in donations from this challenge! This coincided with another gift that enabled us to establish The Spirituality Network Endowment Fund at the Columbus Foundation. We are grateful for such generosity.

We have been blessed this past year through the collaborations with many groups including the Columbus Foundation through the Power Philanthropy program. Under the capable leadership of Amanda Cushing, our programs continue to grow, reaching more individuals and congregations. The 2008 Arti Gras was an enormous success. The new class of the Wellstreams Training Program will begin in August while the current class will complete their work in Spring 2009. Carol Ann Spencer, OP has been the guiding force and director of this outstanding program for the past 11 years.

As we move forward to another year of providing spiritual enrichment for those who "thirst for the God of life," we do so with the support of many. Our new book, *Drawn to the Living Water*, captures the 20 years of spiritual discovery that has been a gift to this community from The Spirituality Network. We hope that you will enjoy reading the book.

We continue to be blessed by your presence and involvement. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

See page 2 for ordering information.



The Spirituality Network, Inc. provides:

- Education and formation through the Wellstreams Training Program
- Spiritual direction referrals for groups and individuals
- Retreat planning and facilitation
- Programs to foster the spiritual life
- Connection to a variety of spirituality resources in central Ohio

As an ecumenical organization, the Spirituality Network serves people both within and outside of religious institutions.

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Network History Available

Drawn to the Living Water: Twenty Years of Spiritual Discovery, written by Wayne Rapp, Rick Hatem, and Anne Rapp, published by The Spirituality Network. Call 614-228-8867 or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com. \$15. A handling fee will be added to orders that are mailed.

from the Chair

Wayne Rapp

The year has passed much too quickly but not without significant accomplishments. The board made a commitment to goals identified during a long-term planning session last spring, and we have begun addressing those goals through effort made by each of the committees. The Spirituality Network was blessed during the year with several generous monetary gifts from supporters who recognized the efforts being made to become a financially stable organization. One of the gifts from Father Ralph Huntzinger was earmarked to defray the cost of designing and printing a book celebrating our 20th anniversary. *Drawn to the Living Water* will not only generate revenue for the Spirituality Network, but it will also be instrumental in introducing our organization to a broader audience, those who thirst for a more meaningful relationship with our loving Creator. We hope that you will enjoy reliving the Network's history through the book.

In reading from the printer's proofs of the book, I was caught up in a statement made by the Spirituality Network's founder, Sister Noreen Malone. She was in a reflective mood after reading an article in *Sojourners*. A question in the article struck a chord: "Shouldn't we act as if we believe the unlikely promises of God?" Noreen said she asked herself "What keeps me from such radical belief?" She had a grocery list answer, which was followed by another question. "What helps me believe when everything is in chaos?" She thought for a moment.

"For now," she wrote to members, endorsers, participants, volunteers and staff, "my answer is extremely simple: YOU! YOU who are the heart of the Network. YOU help me believe that this dream we call the Network is one of God's unlikely promises, and that God is going to keep this promise! It is YOU who give me hope for the future as you give so generously of your time, talent and money. God WILL keep this unlikely promise of the Spirituality Network alive because of YOU and your radical faith in a God who never breaks a promise!"

Amen, Sister. I thank all of you for your effort and commitment during the past year.

We would love to come to you church, group, or organization to introduce our resources for spiritual growth. Call Amanda Stone Cushing: 614-228-8867 to learn more.



Program Coordinator's Report

Amanda Stone Cushing

Looking back over the past program year, I am delighted to reflect on the many new friends I have made through our programs and events. We often say that the Spirituality Network is central Ohio's "best kept secret"—so it is particularly gratifying to discover that the secret is dwindling!

The Program Committee decided this year to be very intentional about raising awareness of our many resources among churches and organizations as we continue to offer programs that foster spiritual growth for individuals. That intention has helped us provide programs and retreats for more churches and organizations than in recent years. Some of the requested programs included Spirituality, Prayer, and Wellness; Living in Gratitude; days of reflection for clergy, chaplains, and women's and men's prayer groups; and Directed Retreats for Busy People. We look forward to working with even more groups and congregations in the coming months.

With the excitement of celebrating a 20th anniversary, our programs have picked up momentum that we trust will continue to carry us into the next 20 years. The addition of a new program to our annual events, Taste and See, was a great success, introducing the Spirituality Network resources to an enthusiastic audience of over 75 people. We will offer Taste and See again this fall (date and location to be announced – watch for details) and look forward to the opportunity to help nurture your spiritual life.

Other long-standing programs will continue to grow and serve during the coming year: The Sacred Feminine; Men's Odyssey to Wholeness; Gathering in the Spirit Contemplative Prayer Series; Arti Gras! Celebration of Art and Spirit; as well as some new additions that are still in development—in particular a look at the spirituality of couples/relationships. Our continuing education and professional enrichment series for those in ministry focuses on helping them serve their communities as well as tend to their own spiritual needs. Watch our website, e-mail updates, and newsletters for more information about programs and events.

To the many new friends, I look forward to getting you know better. To the long-time friends, I am grateful for the support, enthusiasm, and encouragement you provide. To all of you, I offer my commitment to provide opportunities of exploration, experience, and education for your spiritual lives. I look forward to the sacred privilege of sharing in your journeys.

Program Committee Roster: Amanda Stone Cushing, Ron Atwood, Linda Bryant, Pat Gibboney, Donita Harris, Katherine Murphy, Dan Schleppe, Linda Schoen, Jeanette Tangeman

Some comments from participants on the conclusion to our 20th Anniversary Events:

I really needed some time away from all the noise of everyday life. The piano music and the short talks by Phyllis Cole-Dai were everything I thought they would be: filled with her great compassion for peace. Even though the beginning of the montage was very heartbreaking she brought us through to see signs of hope. She is an accomplished pianist and her playing is such a pleasure to listen to. I heard God's whispers challenging me to consider what can be done for peace in my small piece of this world. TERRIE QUIDACIOLU

I was open to the experience and was filled with joy. I especially loved the singing, the sacredness of participating in the semi-mandalas, and the Tonglan Meditation. I was deeply touched and experienced some healing ... giving the blessed sand back to the water to be carried forward. JEANNE MILLER

The day was intense, beautiful, and very meaningful, a wonderful combination of learning new spiritual practices, meditation and prayer time, music, video, and hands-on experience. JEANETTE TANGEMAN

Each and every part was so spiritual and enlightening: her words, her music, the meditations, the sand creation, the slide presentation, the walk to the stream to let the sand go...The timing for this retreat could not have been better ... I enjoyed each and every moment...thank you for bringing her here. SHARON IZZI

Phyllis Cole Dai is an amazing woman and I felt very gifted by her presence and her prayer for us. She brought a storehouse of wisdom, experience, profundity, awareness, ritual and a heart of generosity and gratitude to the Saturday workshop, where she continuously poured herself out for us through music, poetry, story, song, visual art, meditation and group symbolic ritual; giving herself completely to the moments that we shared together. She is total gift. What a beautiful reflection of living water and God's great love embodied for us...a great way to end the 20th anniversary celebration... way to go, friends! MELISSA TURNER-RUSTIN

I was deeply moved by the music and the montages [on Friday evening]. In these photographs I came face to face with my sisters and brothers of the world, all created by the same God, who is Lord of us all. How am I to be my brother's and my sister's keepers? I did not have to wait long for some answers. Saturday's retreat taught me to pray for each of them and for myself in new and powerful ways, and to move from prayer to a plan of action. The person who left on Saturday afternoon was not the same person who arrived on Friday night. MARYBETH CORBETT



Wellstreams Annual Report

Carol Ann Spencer, O.P.
Coordinator of Wellstreams
www.wellstreamscolumbus.org

Wellstreams is a two-phase program designed to enhance the personal spiritual growth of participants and provide training in spiritual direction and companioning. The program is open to women and men of all faith traditions who have a desire to enhance their own spiritual journey and wish to discern their call to share with others.

Our sixth class, which began in August 2006, will complete their program in May 2009. We currently have 14 participants in this class, which just completed their fourth semester and the first part of their outside practicum which is working with two directees, meeting with one's supervisor and participating in a weekly peer supervision group, along with other weekly class topics. This summer each participant will be making a directed retreat as part of a requirement for the program, along with continuing work with the directees.

Currently, we are in the process of interviewing applicants for our seventh class, which will begin on August 22-23, 2008. There is a possibility of about 20 candidates for this class.

Several new programs will be offered this coming year. In the fall, there will be two 4-week courses offered: (1) Experience of Prayer and (2) Human Development and Spirituality. These will give participants who might be interested in Wellstreams in the future to get a taste of the content in Phase One. The other addition is an optional sixth semester for the current students from February-May 2009 that will cover additional topics helpful in companioning. These optional topics will also be open to all in the helping professions.

We are grateful for the wonderful participants, faculty, supervisors, and the Network and Wellstreams Boards who are our greatest assets in our training program. This program continues to meet a need for spiritual directors and companions, along with providing other resources for spirituality and groups in the various denominations that are represented. Perhaps the greatest benefit of the program is providing a safe and holy space for each to attend to one's inner growth, along with the support of many companions on the journey.

The Wellstreams Training Program for Spiritual Directors presents:

Sexuality, Intimacy, and Spirituality

Saturday, September 13, 2008, 9am-1:30pm, registration: 8:45am. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus. Registration fee \$50. Please register by September 5, 2008: 614/228-8867 or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.

Life Commandments and Deep Inner Belief

Saturday, November 8, 2008, 9:30am-3:30pm, Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus. The facilitator will be John Savage, Ph.D. More information in the fall newsletter.

The Spirituality Network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit ecumenical organization founded by Christians of the contemplative tradition.

Beginning in 1986, the Spirituality Network was envisioned as an interfaith outreach to address the "thirst for the God of Life." Though the Network was founded and has been sustained primarily by individuals from the wide spectrum of Christian faith, our aspiration is to be a community of acceptance and inclusion.

It is therefore, our vision that:

The Spirituality Network will be an inclusive resource for individuals and groups in Central Ohio who share a desire for spiritual growth and for helping others on their spiritual paths. Through a rich and diverse network of resources, we seek to provide a lasting sense of hope, peace, and purpose for our community.

Our programs include:

- Wellstreams Ecumenical Program of Spiritual Formation and Training
- Spiritual Direction Referrals
- Retreat Planning and Facilitation
- Continuing Education for Spiritual Directors and those in companioning ministry
- Women to Women Listening Ministry

To receive updates on Network and community events via e-mail, go to spiritualitynetwork.org and click on "Join our Google Group" box in the lower right corner.