

SPIRITUALITY NETWORK



ASSISTING THOSE WHO THIRST FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

NEWSLETTER

FALL
2009

WHAT IS YOUR THIRST?

THIRSTING FOR THE LIVING WATER?
TASTE AND SEE WHAT THE SPIRITUALITY NETWORK HAS TO OFFER

October 3, 2009, 9am-3:30pm

Hosted by First Community Church, North Campus, 3777 Dublin Rd, Columbus

\$25 (prepaid by September 25); \$35 at the door, includes lunch and all materials. Group rate: \$15 per person for groups of 5 or more (MUST be prepaid by September 25). Scholarships available.

For more information or to register, call 614/228-8867 or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com. Registration forms and full descriptions are on our website: www.spiritualitynetwork.org. For over 20 years The Spirituality Network has been helping individuals, groups and congregations with Spiritual Direction, Retreat Planning and Facilitation, Contemplative Prayer, Education and Formation, Special Events and Community Partnerships.

Join us for the Third Annual Taste and See, where you will have the opportunity to sample a variety of prayer and spiritual practices to enrich your faith life. Included in this year's event are:

Contemplative Prayer: Contemplation and Social Justice, Ignatian Spirituality, Spirituality of Dreams

Creative Prayer: Watercolor Prayers, Writing as Prayer, Story Weaving, Prayer of Flower Arranging

Support for Your Journey: Spiritual Direction and the Wellstreams Program of Spiritual Formation, Prayers for the Journey, Men's Spiritual Sharing Groups

Body Prayer: Qigong, Reiki, Labyrinth Walk

Save the Date!
February 13, 2010

**ARTI GRAS! A CELEBRATION
OF ART AND SPIRIT 10TH
ANNIVERSARY**

Watch for details in our next newsletter
and on our website.

Photo: ArtiGras 2009, Opening Blessing



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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.

SPIRITUALITY NETWORK EVENTS

SACRED FEMININE

Our cultural heritage gives us images of The Divine that are overwhelmingly masculine. How do women recognize and claim that they, too, are created in God's likeness? Join us on the second Tuesday of each month as we gather for discussion, reflection, and exploration on a variety of topics that help us to connect to uniquely feminine aspects of The Divine. Our intention is to discover more balance, create more peace, and offer more hope to our world.

First Congregational Church, 444 East Broad St.
PLEASE RSVP: 614/228-8867 or spiritnetwk@hotmail.com. Donations accepted (suggested donation: \$5).



REVERENT LISTENING: WOMEN TO WOMEN MINISTRY

October 13, 2009, 2-4pm, facilitated by Sr. Maxine Shonk, O.P. and Sr. Noreen Malone, O.P. **RSVP: 614/228-8867.** The Women to Women Listening Ministry has been helping women break the cycles of abuse, violence, homelessness, and poverty for over 20 years. Join us to learn about the practice of reverent listening and the ways it can foster transformation to wholeness. Sr. Noreen Malone and Sr. Maxine Shonk are members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace and are founding members of the Spirituality Network.

HEALING AND HOPE: WOMEN'S RESPITE PROGRAM

November 10, 2009, 2-4pm, facilitated by Anne Rapp and Ellen Fox. **RSVP: 614/228-8867.** For almost 10 years, a group of women has invited low-income mothers to come together in a safe place for a mini-vacation that affirms and allows each woman to express her individuality and creative spirit. Anne and Ellen will share stories of healing and transformation from this program. Ellen Fox is a licensed massage therapist, spiritual director, artist, and grandmother; Anne Rapp is a writer, editor, and grandmother. Both are founding members of the Respite Program and long-time active participants in the Spirituality Network.

IMAGES OF JESUS AS "MOTHER": INSPIRED BY JULIAN OF NORWICH

December 8, 2009, 2-4pm, facilitated by Becky King, M.Div. **RSVP: 614/228-8867.** Inspired by the images of Christ as Mother from the writings of Julian of Norwich, Becky created a powerful visual meditation on this theme. Join us for a brief informative discussion followed by a meditative experience with images and music in a PowerPoint presentation. Becky King, M.Div., is currently a Chaplain Resident and pursuing ordination in the UCC denomination.

CONNECTING IN THE SPIRIT: CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AND STORY SHARING

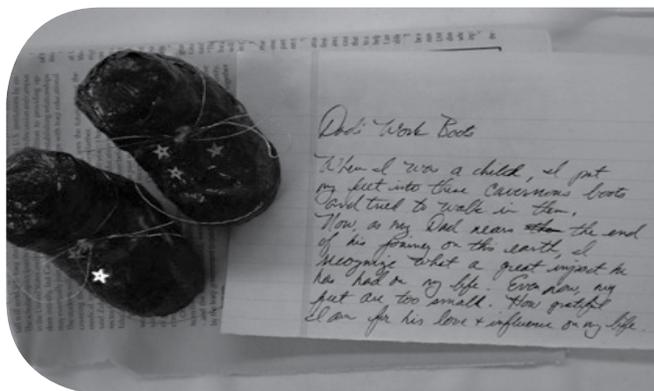
First Thursdays, 7-8:30pm, at the Spirituality Network, First Congregational Church, 444 E Broad St, Columbus.

FREE ~ All are welcome ~ Bring a friend.
PLEASE RSVP: 614/228-8867 or spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.

*Discover quiet in the midst of a noisy life...
Listen for God inviting you to draw near...
Refresh your spirit...*

We invite you to join us for our monthly gatherings for contemplative prayer and story sharing in community.

October 8: Prayers for Peace
November 5: Prayers of Gratitude
December 3: Prayers for Advent
February 4, March 4, and April 1, 2010



ArtiGras 2009:
above, "Someone Else's Shoes"; right: "The Journey Within: Creating a Finger Labyrinth"



NEW WELLSTREAMS CLASS FORMING

Registration is open for the class that begins in August 2010. For information, see the website (www.wellstreamscolumbus.org), e-mail carol.spencer1@juno.com, or call 614/228-8867.

WELLSTREAMS FALL WORKSHOPS

Register with the Spirituality Network for these workshops: 614/228-8867 or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com; or online at www.wellstreamscolumbus.org.

LISTENING SKILLS WORKSHOP

September 26, 2009, 9:30am-3:30pm, registration 9:10am, Martin De Porres Center/St. Mary of the Springs. \$50, optional lunch \$5.25. Preregister by September 11, 2009.

Listening is so basic that we take it for granted; yet "Holy Listening" can be a transforming experience. The ability to listen deeply to another rests on how successfully we can be with the other, while resisting the impulse to do something more. You can take the first step toward mindful listening by learning to be conscious, intentional, open, and receptive. Open to anyone who desires to deepen the art of listening and is especially well suited for those in the helping professions. A balanced day of silence, input, experiential exercises, and discussion will allow us to explore the gifts and challenges of holy listening.

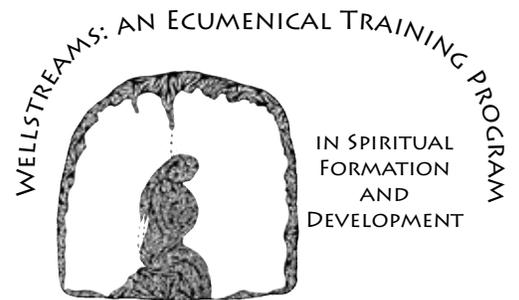
Facilitator Sharon Reed, M.Ed. is a licensed professional counselor, Dean of Student Life at Ohio Dominican University, and a graduate of the Shalem Program in Spiritual Direction.

NEURO-LINGUISTIC PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP

November 7, 2009, 9:30am-3:30pm, registration 9:10am, Martin De Porres Center/St. Mary of the Springs. \$60, optional lunch \$5.25. Preregister by October 26, 2009.

This workshop focuses on the skills and processes developed through a study of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). It gives attention to how a person communicates and explores this communication process in great detail. It also explores the interpretive processes that a person uses to make sense of life's events and their meaning. How one decodes life becomes the way a person decides what it will mean. How God is interpreted by one's experiences and the understanding of what God is like is included in this workshop. We will explore how neurology acts as a master filter for all that we experience. Open to all who desire to grow in their ability to listen and communicate.

Facilitator John Savage, D.Min., M.Div., is the founder of L.E.A.D.S. (Leadership, Education and Development) and has worked with local churches and organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia helping individuals learn to develop themselves while also learning to understand those around them. John served as a United Methodist pastor for 26 years and is now an international trainer, lecturer, author, and consultant.



www.wellstreamscolumbus.org

WELLSTREAMS ANNOUNCES A NEW SERIES OF MINI-COURSES TO INTRODUCE ITS CORE CURRICULUM.

Wellstreams Mini-Courses are offered to introduce a sampling from the core curriculum of the Wellstreams Program. These series are small tastes of the full-length, semester courses.

A 4-WEEK MINI-COURSE ON THE DYNAMICS OF TRANSFORMATION

Facilitated by Amanda Stone Cushing, Program Coordinator, Spirituality Network

Mondays: October 12, 19, 26, and November 2, 2009, 7-8:45pm, Spirituality Network, First Congregational Church, 444 E Broad St; \$60 if prepaid by October 1; \$75 after October 1. Scholarships are available by request.

With a foundation in Christian spirituality, the course will introduce several paradigms (models) of spiritual transformation that highlight some of the universal aspects of spiritual growth and ongoing faith formation.

- Defining spirituality and the characteristics of mature faith
- Elements and patterns of spiritual growth
- Your story and The Story: journaling and memoir-writing
- Models of spiritual transformation found in scripture, the writings of Teresa of Avila and Carl Jung, and the Twelve Steps of A.A.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

REFLECTIONS

by Katherine Murphy Mertzlufft

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As a way of introducing myself, I would enjoy sharing some snippets of my life's journey with you, how I became connected with the Spirituality Network and what that means for me.

It amazes me as I look back at my life the strong sense I have of God's active Presence leading me along the way; sometimes gently, sometime pulling, and oftentimes unnoticed. For as long as I can remember, I have been thirsty...and I have been given what I needed to quench my thirst for that particular time while continuing to be drawn to the well for more. You may connect as I do with the scripture (John 4: 4-29).of the Samaritan woman at the well discovering the Source of Living Water. It seems that wells have been symbolically prevalent in my life.

Through my career in nursing, the sanctity and fragility of all life became very apparent. I found nursing to hold both tremendous responsibility and tremendous privilege — to be entrusted with the care of others in times of vulnerability and need. As my career direction unfolded, I was intrigued by the notion of preventive medicine and became involved in mind-body-spirit connection when it was in its infancy in the early 70s. I enjoyed an 18-year career in health promotion and wellness. Wellness, living fully into the life we have been given, has played a valuable role in shaping my own pathway.

My background somewhat helped prepare me for caring for my husband of 34 years as he battled the last stages of terminal cancer. It was an amazingly grace-filled part of my journey through which Hugh taught me and others how to live and how to die. As I struggled to put my life back together after his death, I felt bathed in living water as countless friends and experiences led me to the well over and over again. Several of those experiences bear mentioning here.

A "coincidental" chain of events provided the opportunity to learn about life coaching through a process called "Guiding Mindful Change." Because my personal experience had taught me that beyond grief counseling, the ability to move forward and re-engage fully in life is a difficult challenge, I became certified as a Life Coach with the specific intention of helping people move through transitions.

Simultaneous to Life Coach training, I began to meet with a Spiritual Director and was introduced to the Spirituality Network by Father Vinny McKiernan. I was immediately drawn to some of the programs offered by the Network and felt enlightened by those experiences and enriched by the people I met. I learned about Wellstreams and my curiosity was further piqued when Fr. Vinny encouraged me to apply. I was at first hesitant but, somehow, the opportunity continued to get my attention and finally, I gave in.

Wellstreams was a remarkable, transforming, life-giving leg of my journey, leading me in a direction I would have never dreamed possible. Through the process, I have come to claim my thirst for God, my reliance on the Source of Living Water in my daily life, and my calling to companion other fellow travelers in their journey to the well. I have been a practicing Spiritual Director since graduating in 2007.

Striving to live a mindful, contemplative life in the Spirit is a personal challenge that has been further enhanced by the practice of Compassionate Communication. Also known as NVC, Nonviolent Communication offers a method to help create a quality

continued on p. 9



MANY PATHS, ONE WAY

Another in our series of spiritual profiles of people who are connected to the Network.

Donita Harris says she is living an answered prayer. She is also blessed with the ability to recognize that answer even though it may not resemble the shape of her prayer. Her prayers were often about asking questions, which began at an early age. She spent her first 40 years in a mainline protestant church, and as a teenager she wondered why churches weren't more inviting and welcoming. "I remember asking my mother how do people get into our church? I never see anybody inviting anyone. At 40 I decided I needed to explore places where people invited people to join them on their faith journey. Several years and a couple of churches later I found such a place through the missional work of the United Methodist Church."

Donita values the foundation her early religious upbringing gave her, but refers often to the evolution of her spirituality. "I believe one of the major ways spirituality develops is when we find ourselves uncomfortable with our religious training or religious doctrines, yet we start looking for ways to fit our newfound ideas and revelations back into those various teachings. We want to go deeper than we were taught...I wondered what was in my religious tradition that I didn't know about, that would help me on my path. Was there something I could really connect with? I discovered the mystics; that discovery started my conscious spiritual journey." Like many people, a turning point in her spiritual development was a time of great emotional pain: "My deep desire to be in constant relationship with the divine started over a broken heart, watching someone wounded wound others. In those weeping moments of wanting to assist those being harmed, I searched deep to find God. During that time I experienced the marvel of a God who would talk to you directly and give you tough answers, and I encountered a God of silence who seemed to let pain linger."

Donita's spiritual evolution took a major turn after she retired from corporate life. A friend urged her to think about spiritual direction and pointed her toward the Spirituality Network's Wellstreams program, which she began in winter 2002, graduating in the 2004 class. For Donita, "spiritual direction is about discovering things you really believe and finding pathways to live them out. It is about feeling safe with someone who will listen as you peel back layers, look for the common threads, and search out your own answers." At its best spiritual direction is a gift exchange. "Many times directees bring the gift of awareness in areas I need to attend to in my own life as I journey. Also, it is absolute gift for me not to have to fulfill a certain 'to-do list' as is often required of us in other work we do in the world. I freely lean into or rely on the movement of the spirit to come up with words that need to be said and invitations that need to be presented."

BIRTHING GOD EVERY DAY: A PROFILE OF DONITA HARRIS

by Sandra Kerka



Her participation in Wellstreams led Donita to an even greater midlife change, when one of her classmates told her about a community that was forming around the United Methodist Free Store, a south Columbus thrift shop that gives away clothing and household items. They needed volunteers to serve as hosts for people gathering to shop. "They wanted somebody who would agree to be present to folks. I thought what a great spiritual direction opportunity. I get to be an active and reflective listener. I was not being asked to fix or solve anything, just show up, keep the coffee pot on, and be among Free Store shoppers. Little did I know that the sacred stories I heard from the many people I became acquainted with would indeed become part my story. I never imagined, together, we would form a community of faith." Most of the Free Store shoppers live within the margins of poverty, some below the line, some too low to be counted because they are homeless. Among them is the same thirst for God we've all experienced. It was a natural step for me to join other UM leaders who were ready to provide spiritual support to a people in need. We invited people to come to prayer circles and they came. Through those circles relationships of trust were built. We asked, what would it look like if we were to form a church? Would you come? We listened to folks and took to heart their desire to have a place where they were accepted. So with a commitment among us to try and live out our vision of radical acceptance together...we birthed a church."

As its name, the Church for All People, implies, it was built out of a community of welcome and acceptance. "I've never been homeless, never been hungry or poor, nor do I try to pretend that I have been. We, a core group of the middle class, had the awesome experience of being connected to this neighborhood, this community, through the Free Store. With intent we created the idea that when you shop at the Free Store, you become part of a community that by its nature invites you to become part of a faith church community, and if church is not for you, it's okay. It is an awesome privilege to be able to do that. We open the doors every day and are reminded that we are connected to all people and we all have something to share, something to give."

continued on p. 11

COMMUNITY EVENTS



MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER

2330 Airport Dr, Columbus;
Registration/information: 614/416-
1910; martindepordes@oppeace.org;
www.martindeporrescenter.net

Falling into Grace: The Fiction of Andrew Greeley, September 23, 7-9pm. Suggested donation \$10; register by September 21. In his book, *Falling into Grace*, Professor R.W. Carstens shares the findings of his deep exploration into Greeley's novels as evidence of a set of ancient values and key political ideas that are needed today more than ever. He will present his own theories on how these ideas can be applied to today's world.

Ministering to One Another, September 30, 1-3pm. Suggested donation \$5; register by September 28. Facilitators: Marialein Anzenberger, OP, and Rebecca Madine. Part of the Center's Institute for Maturing Spirituality.

"*Had We But World Enough and Time...*" *A Christian Thinks Theologically about Time*, October 16, 7-9pm, buffet at 6pm. Suggested donation \$15 (buffet), \$10 (program only); register by October 13. Bonnie Thurston, PhD, will consider four suggestions about the theological and spiritual meaning of time, focusing on it as gift and opportunity.

A Sabbath Rest for the People of God, October 17, 10am-3pm. Suggested donation \$25, includes lunch; register by October 13. Bonnie Thurston, PhD, offers a consideration of the concept of "Sabbath" and practical suggestions for how to recover Sabbath in our own lives. Morning: Sabbath in Judaism and Christianity; Afternoon: Making Sabbath: Practical Suggestions for Busy People.

Day of Prayer and Reflection for Elders, October 22, 10am-3pm. Suggested donation \$15; register by October 19. Facilitated by a team of retreat leaders. Part of the Center's Institute for Maturing Spirituality.

On the Shoulders of Ancestors, October 25, 3-4 pm; reception 2-3pm. Free and open to the public; register by October 21. Willis Bing Davis gives a slide/lecture presentation that traces the artistic and cultural development of a visual artist who blends his urban experience with his African heritage to create an artistic vision. Presented in partnership with the Ohioana Library Association.

De Porres Center 5-Year Anniversary—Olive Trees, Oranges and Mice: Martin Shows Us the Way, November 1, 2-4pm. Free and open to the public; register by October 28. Joan Monahan, PhD, will relate episodes from St. Martin's life to illustrate why he is called a saint for our troubled times. Musical selections by the St. Dominic Parish Choir and inspirational dance by the Bakhita Dancers—plus a few surprises! Presented in partnership with Black Catholic Ministries.

You Will Never Walk Alone, November 14, 10am-2:30pm. Suggested donation \$20 includes lunch; register by November 10. Presenter: Mauryeen O'Brien, OP. Come together with others who have experienced loss and spend a quiet day in a peace-filled atmosphere of reflection and sharing. The day will end with a prayer service in honor of our deceased loved ones.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

Jeff Brown, jeff@nvcoho.org or
614/558-1141; www.nvcoho.org

The Dance of Compassionate Communication: 4-day retreat, September 10-13, Grailville Retreat Center, Loveland, OH, led by Gina Lawrie and Jeff Brown, Certified NVC Trainers. Deepen your practice of Nonviolent Communication using the NVC Dance Floors, spatial floor maps that people move through to experience and integrate various NVC processes.

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR DOMINICAN STUDIES

Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall, 1216 Sunbury Rd, Columbus; 614/251-4722; www.ohiodominican.edu/about/dominicanstudies/events.asp. *Registration is required for all events:* e-mail Sr. Catherine Colby, colbyc@ohiodominican.edu.

Living Peace: A Spirituality of Contemplation and Action, September 30, 2009, 7pm, Matesich Theatre. Presenter: John Dear, S.J., internationally known voice for peace and nonviolence. A Jesuit priest, lecturer, organizer and retreat leader, and author of 25 books, John was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Sacred Music Concert: I Do Believe, October 3, 7pm, Sansbury Hall Chapel. Featuring Tatiana Cameron Tajci, accomplished musician and singer who moved from poverty in Communist Yugoslavia, where she was trained at the Music Conservatory from age 4, to stardom in Central Europe. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, she joined the thousands of Croats who flocked to the churches to pray freely for the first time.

A Call for Stewardship of the Earth, October 8, 7pm, Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall. Presenter: Patricia Siemen, OP, J.D., Dominican sister from Adrian, Michigan, and a civil attorney. She currently serves as the director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence, a collaborative initiative cosponsored by Barry and St. Thomas universities.

Dominican Life of the Mind Lecture Series: Politics, Spirituality and the Common Good, September 23, 7pm, Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall. Presenter: Barbara E. Wall, Ph.D., Special Assistant to the President for Mission at Villanova University and Associate Professor of Philosophy: Marxism, Political Theory, Catholic Social Teaching and Feminism. She is co-editor of the *Journal of Catholic*



Social Thought and the Journal for Peace and Justice Studies.

Dominican Life of the Mind Lecture Series: Meaningful Change within a Living Church: Cardinal Yves Congar's Vision of True Reform, November 17, 7pm, Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall. Presenter: Rev. Paul J. Philibert, OP, member and former Prior Provincial of the Southern Dominican Province of St. Martin de Porres. Paul is a member of the permanent commission on Studies of the Dominican Order and chairs the Board of the Congar Institute.

Dominican Conversation Circles Lecture Series and Dinner: Fra Angelico: Preaching through Art, September 10, 6pm, Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall. Presenter: Barbara Cervenka, OP, Dominican Sister of Adrian, Associate Professor of Art at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan. Barbara has exhibited widely in the United States and Canada. Since 1989 she has also curated shows of Latin America popular art.

Truth Seekers Reflection Series, 12pm, Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall. *Keep It Real: Truth in Academic Life*, October 28, 2009. Presenter: John Boll, OP (Chaplain at Ohio Dominican University).

Truth Seekers Reflection Series, 12pm, Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall. *Catholic Social Teaching and Issues of Justice in Higher Education*, November 2, 2009. ODU Faculty Panel: Dr. Barbara Finan, Professor of Theology, Dr. Godwin Duru, Associate Professor of Economics and Dr. Shannon Markiewicz, Instructor of Mathematics.

ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER
64 W Lane Ave, Columbus, 614/291-4674; www.thenewmancenter.net/wcms/index.php

Introduction to Centering Prayer, October 28, 7:30pm, led by Fr. Vinny McKiernan.

ST. FRANCIS SPIRITUALITY CENTER

200 St. Francis Ave, Tiffin;
419/443-1485; e-mail: retreats@stfrancisspiritualitycenter.org; www.stfrancisspiritualitycenter.org

Re-Centering Day: Walking in God's Presence, September 8, 9:30am-3pm. Suggested donation \$20. Group prayer and a reflection for the day, followed by time before and after the noon meal (included) for reflection, renewal, and a "re-centering" of your spirit. The group will then gather for prayer and closing reflections.

Franciscan Guided Retreat, September 20-September 26, Suggested donation \$350. Franciscan presentation and optional prayer/ritual each day.

FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

North Campus, 3777 Dublin Rd,
South Campus, 1320 Cambridge Blvd, 614/488-0681 ext 226, mhett@fcchurch.com
fcchurch.com, www.fcchurch.com

Fall 2009 Spiritual Searcher: Terry Hershey. Preaching: October 4, 9:15 and 10:15am, Grace Hall, North Campus; 11am, Sanctuary, South Campus. *Workshops:* October 4, 2:30-4:30pm, Put on Your Dancing Shoes; 5-7pm, How to Be Me When the World Wants Someone Else; Grace Hall, North Campus. *Lecture:* October 5, 7-8:30pm, The Power of Pause: Becoming More by Doing Less, Sanctuary, South Campus. Terry Hershey is a noted author, minister, gardener, dancer, and teacher of being intoxicated with this world while embracing the sacred present.

C. G. JUNG ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

Jung Haus, 59 W Third Ave, Columbus; 614/291-8050; JungACO@core.com; www.JungCentralOhio.org. Contact the Jung Association for information and/or to register for these programs.

Jung 101, September 10, 17, 24, 7-8:30pm, Ohio Dominican University, Sansbury Hall, 2nd floor Conference

Room, preregistration required. Presenter: Jay Young, JACO Board Member. Intended for those with limited background and/or knowledge of the work of Carl Jung. Participants will explore Jung's fascinating history, ideas, and impact on contemporary society. Participants should acquire a copy of Murray Stein's book, *Jung's Map of the Soul* before the first session. (Available at Jung Assn.)

Jung Association 20th Anniversary Celebration, September 27, open house, 2-4pm, brief program at 2:30, honoring and thanking our founders, Ann and Bob Murtha. First Community Church, South Campus.

2009 Bollingen Lecturer Robert Moore, PhD, Jungian Analyst, author, October 16-17, First Community Church, South Campus. *Friday Lecture: A Neo-Jungian Mapping of the Psyche:* focusing on the deep structures of the Archetypal Self and leading to better understanding the role of the Self in balancing the opposites in our lives. *Saturday Workshop, Archetypes and Ecstasy: The Quest for Optimal Experience.* What is it that drives the human quest for something more in our lives? Dr. Moore will present discoveries about the archetypal map of the journey toward wholeness.

2nd Saturday Coffee and Conversation, 10am-12pm, free, donations appreciated.

THE SPIRITUAL CENTER OF MARIA STEIN

2365 St Johns Rd, Maria Stein, Ohio; toll free 877/925-7625; spiritualcenter@watchtv.net; www.spiritualcenter.net

10-Year Anniversary of the Re-Opening of the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein Luncheon and Open House, September 13, 12-4pm. \$8 donation. Staff and board will give tours of the facility and woods and present the center's history.

continued on p. 8

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

by Wayne Rapp

The Spirituality Network board has been kicking around the idea of volunteering as a group for some time. Board member Donita Harris finally placed before us the perfect opportunity. Donita is the lay pastor for the United Methodist Church for All People on South Parsons Avenue in Columbus and is also the Director of Operations with Community Development for All People. Pat Gibboney, her husband, Joe, Amanda Cushing, Linda Bryant, Sister Maxine Shonk, and Wayne Rapp arrived on the church's doorstep at 8:30 on April 25, a Saturday morning. Saturday is a busy day for the church, and the board was there to help.

The location is a storefront, and the group started their work on the sidewalk. Walking around and in front of lines of people standing at the door, we unloaded provisions from a station wagon and lugged them to a kitchen counter. Preparations for breakfast were in progress. Members of Hilliard United Methodist Church were busy laying out the food. Having performed this task for a long time, this was a very organized group, and it was difficult to find a niche where we could be helpful.

Once the doors were open, the people piled in. It was an eclectic group, old and young, black and white. All people who were down on their luck and needed some help. A typical community breakfast draws 85 hungry people. Our group found we were most helpful by mixing with the people and talking with them. Most seemed interested in talking, not crying their woes, but having normal conversation any of us would have over a meal. As we tended to their needs, making sure they had enough to eat and refilling juice and coffee cups, we found the truth that

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS *from p. 7*

Lunch, Laughter, & Learning, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15, 11am. Third Tuesdays, September-May. \$7. Call to register.

Fundamentalism and the New Age, September 29, 7pm (register by September 25). \$5 donation. What is it all about and can it affect my family? Presenter Tom has served at four parishes in his 26+ years of Diaconal Ministry. He holds a Master's Degree from the University of Dayton in Pastoral Ministry and Counseling and a Doctorate in Theology from the Graduate Theological Foundation.

Discovering the Personal Year, October 10, 9am-3pm (register by October 5). \$20 donation includes lunch. An introduction to tracking the phases of nature as well as those of the human body and spirit. Daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal, and annual human rhythms; how those rhythms connect with events in the natural world; and how readings, journaling, prayer, and mindfulness meditation can increase awareness. Dr. Bill Felker has taught at colleges and universities for over

45 years. His "Poor Will's Miami Valley Almanac" is a regular weekly feature on WYSO, a National Public Radio station.

What's Going on with the Church? October 29, 10am-3pm (register by October 23): \$15 donation includes lunch. Father Jim Dugal, pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Montezuma, will discuss the many current issues facing the Catholic Church, and how these issues affect the community of believers.

CENTER FOR SHAMANIC PRACTICES
614/507-0656; e-mail Deborah Ling at Deborahling50@sbcglobal.net; www.shamanicpractice.org

10-month shamanism training, beginning Saturday, September 12, 2009

Autumn Equinox Drumming Retreat, September 25-26

The Artist's Way: 12-week class for opening your creativity through unique activities and exercises beginning Monday, September 14

seems to come with all volunteering: we were getting as much from the experience as we were giving.

After the breakfast tables were cleared, the board headed for the Free Store to help out. There is a room where hundreds of people look through racks of clothing to find usable items for their families. These are arranged by size and category. While several of us helped out here, others retreated to the back room where mounds of clothing lay on large tables. It was our job to put them on hangers and place them in categories. Others arranged them by size and brought them to the main floor. Just as our effort reduced the size of our individual piles, someone added to them. It appeared to be an endless repetitive task. We were glad to make a little dent in it. It was a very rewarding way to spend a Saturday morning.

There will always be need for volunteers at the Church for All People. To find out more about what they do and their impact in the community go to <http://www.4allpeople.org>.

The Spirituality Network board will continue to look for opportunities to share our time, talents, and concerns with needy organizations. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know, and, as we announce other locations where we will volunteer, there is an open invitation to join us.

Read more about the Church for All People in the profile of Donita Harris on page 5.

ONGOING GROUPS

CENTERING PRAYER

Led by Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP, at the Newman Center, 64 W Lane Ave, Columbus, Mondays 7-7:45pm and Tuesdays 12:15-1pm. 614/291-4674; e-mail: vinnycsp@yahoo.com

TURNING LEAVES AND TEA LEAVES

Second Wednesdays, 2-3:30pm. A monthly book club facilitated by Marialein Anzenberger, OP, and Colleen Gallagher, OP. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus; 614/416-1910; martindeporres@columbusdominicans.org; www.columbusdominicans.org/mdp

BLUE HERON SANGHA

Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus, Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45pm. A mindfulness community in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Contact Sandy at scoen@columbus.rr.com.

THOMAS MERTON STUDY GROUP

First Mondays, 6-8pm. Vespers in Motherhouse chapel, 2320 Airport Dr, are followed by discussion of Merton readings, led by Merton scholar David Belcastro, PhD. Hosted by Martin de Porres Center, 614/416-1910.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WRITING GUILD

A network for the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing. Meetings twice monthly, free and open to all, for writing, reading, and gentle critiquing in a safe, supportive environment. Columbus Public Library, 96 S Grant Ave, usually 3rd Fl. Board Room (microwave available). *September 19, October 17, 10am-12:30pm*: You may bring work you'd like to have critiqued or a writing prompt to share. *Central Ohio IWWG Annual Fall Reading: Surprises, Epiphanies, New Beginnings,*

November 8, 2-4pm, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Easton Town Center.

Contact Jeanne Marlowe at JAMarlowe@juno.com, 614/476-8802.

INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO SPIRITUAL SHARING GROUP

September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2, 12-1pm, Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S Grant Ave, conference room 1. Share concerns, exchange views, and build relationships. Contact Jeanne Marlowe, 614/476-8802; JAMarlowe@juno.com. IACO represents eight major faith traditions—Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, and Sikh—and holds open houses and forums in various locations; see www.iaco.org for details of *Open House / Visit to Mosque Masjid-Al-Urooj*, September 27, 1:15-4pm, 7089 Firenza Place, Dublin.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR *from p. 4*

of connection between individuals. It has become a spiritual practice for me and a way of living in the world to foster peace and harmony and to build authentic relationships based on mutual trust and respect. Check the newsletter's Community Events column for offerings of Compassionate Communication of Central Ohio.

My thirst is also quenched from the well of my faith community, St. Thomas More Newman Center, where I am actively involved in a variety of lay ministries. I am a Paulist Associate, which calls me to Evangelization or reaching out, Reconciliation or bringing peace, and Ecumenism or seeking unity. As I strive to integrate my life experiences, where and how I have been led and who God is creating me to be, I remain in awe and wonder

of how my life's journey has unfolded thus far.

My story would not be complete without mentioning my gratitude for the blessings of a wonderful and supportive family; my husband, Tom (of 1 year!), two married adult children, three adult stepchildren, and (collectively) six grandchildren, all sources of hope and joy and sometimes challenge!

In the past 6 years, the Spirituality Network has been a well for me, opening many channels flowing with inspiration, refreshment, sustenance, and vitality. I am ever grateful for the Living Water the Network has led me to. I am humbled and gratified to be a part of sustaining the Network, serving in this leadership role and, I hope, contributing to its vibrancy and vitality.

I value making a contribution to this life-giving well. Please pray that all who are involved with the Spirituality Network will continue to make its vision of being an open and inclusive resource for spiritual growth and assisting others on their spiritual paths a reality in our (central Ohio) community of thirsty people. It is a great work to assist those who thirst for spiritual growth, a deep need in these particularly hard times and a gift to the seekers and searchers in our midst.

Blessings, Prayers, and Peace to you on the journey!

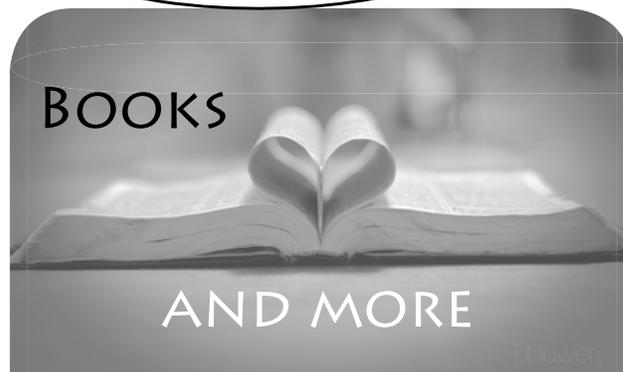
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia J. Gibboney, CFRE

IMPACT—what does it mean? According to Webster’s Dictionary, as a verb it means “to drive close; fix firmly; pack; wedge.” I would like to suggest another definition in the form of a question: What would the world/community be like if there did not exist something unique? To apply that question closer to home, what would our world be like without The Spirituality Network? What IMPACT have we made during the past 20 plus years since the founding of the organization? When I think about the IMPACT that has been made and how we have enabled change in this community, many things come to mind. For example:

- We have been able to create a community awareness of the meaning of spiritual direction.
- We have trained and recruited more than 80 spiritual directors who continue to companion hundreds of individuals who are on their spiritual journeys.
- We have offered many programs and events that provide spiritual enrichment to the hundreds of participants who discovered it through art, contemplative prayer, dance, music, storytelling, journaling, and other experiences that changed their lives.
- We have partnered with more than 50 congregations and local organizations to bring a spirit-filled experience to their members.

Have we made an IMPACT? Yes, I truly believe that we have. We frequently hear, “The Spirituality Network changed my life” or “When I found The Spirituality Network, I felt that I had come home.” The Board of Directors and staff join me in offering a commitment to continuing our efforts in making a recognizable IMPACT in this community. But, we can’t do it without you! We need your support, your ideas, your feedback, and most of all, your willingness to tell others about The Spirituality Network. You are the greatest ambassadors that we have.



SEEKING PEACE: CHRONICLES OF THE WORST BUDDHIST IN THE WORLD

Pipher, Mary. *Seeking Peace: Chronicles of the Worst Buddhist in the World*. New York: Riverhead, 2009.

Following the success of her bestselling book *Reviving Ophelia*, Pipher experienced nearly a decade of unprecedented demands on her time that involved extensive travel to present lectures and workshops. At the same time, she maintained her private practice as a therapist, continued teaching university courses, and wrote two additional books. In 2002, she experienced a “meltdown.” Her memoir, *Seeking Peace*, recounts the strategies she used to answer questions such as “What does it mean to be happy?” and “How does one achieve inner peace?” in order to find self-acceptance and joy. First, Pipher describes her meltdown and then digs into her past as a means of uncovering why it occurred. The last section of the book deals with the “recovery” period. Although Pipher subtitles her book *Chronicles of the Worst Buddhist in the World*, this is not a book about Buddhism. Spiritual practices such as meditation, prayer, and being present did become an important part of her life as she sought to regain balance. Readers may not identify with the particulars of Mary’s life but many of her observations and experiences may help those who are seeking a more peaceful and joy-filled life.

Recommended by Susan Imel

HELP THE NETWORK THROUGH AMAZON

Your purchase of books, music, gifts, or gift certificates through our Amazon.com link returns a portion of the price to the Network. Bookmark the Amazon Purchase Program link at www.spiritualitynetwork.org.

Photo: Mandala Collage workshop, ArtiGras 2009

BIRTHING GOD *from p. 3*

It is telling that she refers to “birthing a church,” because an incarnational theology underlies Donita’s approach to life. She quotes her favorite mystic, Meister Eckhart: “What good is it to us if Mary gave birth to the son of God 2,000 years ago and we do not also give birth to the Son of God in our time and culture?” Believing in the divine within themselves, Donita and other leaders of the Church for All People acknowledge everyone as beloved children of God. “Being an incarnation of God is what we are called to do. God showers us with everything that God has and from that we should aspire to be like God. If you say it from a spiritual space, it humbles you and molds you; it opens your eyes to see what is needed in this hurting world. In our ministry if you’re not careful, it is easy to become so busy taking care of needs that you forget to listen to people’s dreams, aspirations, and hopes, you’ll miss the chance to hear and feel their spirituality. At our best we are asset based. We talk about opportunities, gifts, and graces, very seldom about ‘deficiency.’” A natural corollary to this perspective is the “divine economy of abundance.” “It’s not about scarcity, it’s about distribution. And we truly believe if we give forward the best we have, there’s enough for everybody. People fall into this belief that there is not enough. There *is* enough. It is about keeping your eyes and spirit open to infinite possibilities of where and what and how we can share. We have more than one incredible story of little becoming a lot in this place.”

They experience these stories by holding to the ideal that every child of God will have a decent place to live, enough food to satisfy hunger, and opportunity to reach an aspiration or goal. “Keeping a sincere desire in your mind, your heart, and your spirit draws you to people who can help you.” At the church with a kitchen that does not have a stove, 350 people every week are fed because partner organizations come in to assist. Community Development for All People, a community development corporation formed to help people with their dreams of affordable housing, began with a donated house that they renovated, which got the attention of the city. “We didn’t know a lot about housing when we started. We had great help from a former Habitat for Humanity executive, and now we are in partnership with the city, which allowed us to purchase 14 blighted houses and rehab them to sell at a really affordable price to first-time homeowners. Keeping the essence of what you believe alive is the charge of our spiritual journey—to stay connected with the possibility of what we know could be, or what we dream should be, without getting bogged down with the hows and what ifs. We have learned if we stay in that divine place of God’s sufficiency, then the opportunity happens and people come along the way to help us with the nuts and bolts.”

This didn’t happen without some resistance on Donita’s part. “I fussed a lot with God when we formed this community development corporation. When I retired, I figured I wouldn’t have to look at budgets, manage HR, or do presentations and

and here it is again. So I had some moments with God! But it became clear, very clear that this is part of the answered prayer.” In Wellstreams she resisted a module on creativity as an expression of prayer, but to complete it she took a class on polymer clay. At the same time, the church was looking for ways to help people with employment. “I could just feel God’s thumb on my neck saying ‘You just learned this skill with polymer clay.’ I said ‘Surely you jest! I just did this to get past the prayer class!’ But I found myself saying, ‘I learned this medium and I probably could teach people how to make small jewelry items and give them some supplemental income.’ And from a \$40 toaster oven and \$30 worth of clay, the Circle of Hope was born. Like the housing projects, this microenterprise “didn’t solve all of this community’s problems, but I think it helped the community to know we heard them and truly wanted to help.”

Hearing the community’s dreams, listening actively, begins with listening to God. As a “closet mystic” and an introvert, Donita feels a strong pull to be “Mary,” contemplating, reflecting. But at the same time, “I am blessed with perception of the big picture that keeps me moving and putting the pieces together. I am a contradiction of terms. Both/and, Martha *and* Mary.” This puts her in a space to practice another essential part of her incarnational philosophy, “radical hospitality.” At a Sacred Feminine session in November, she presented Martha and Mary as exemplars of radical hospitality. “Jesus taught it over and over and over again. Everybody receives it and views it differently. You can’t properly discern what is really considered radical hospitality to another until you enter a relationship. We say the door’s open, the coffee pot’s always on, and call that hospitality. But to really make someone feel welcome, you have to know what welcome means to *them*. To some it’s ‘feed me,’ to others it’s ‘acknowledge my existence as a beloved child of God.’”

Somehow, her youthful questions about inviting and welcoming people to share the spiritual journey have led Donita to assisting in the birth of a church of radical hospitality supported by the divine economy of abundance. “I am living an answered prayer. I just had no idea what it would look like. I asked God, is it true we can all be one? What does that look like? Are people willing to struggle to be one? In my wildest imagining I didn’t see myself as part of a worshipping community with white, black, and every color in between of fellow images of God. Imagine rich and poor, able and less able, addicted and drug free people, folks who have the security of the suburbs and folks who are homeless in the same place agreeing that we are all beloved children of God, pondering together how we’re to share what we have. Sometimes I am flooded with an overwhelming sense I am seeing glimpses of what heaven might look like, be like, feel like. Years ago I asked tough questions of God and poured out the desires of my heart to a God who often seemed silent and not engaged. Here’s God’s answer years later, and thanks be to God I recognized it.”



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Columbus OH 43215

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/spiritnetwk

On Facebook, www.facebook.com, search: "Spirituality Network, Columbus, Ohio"

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.

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

WISH LIST

Donations gratefully accepted.

Office Equipment:

Two new computers with flatscreen monitors)
One flat screen monitor (17" or larger)
One small or medium-sized computer desk
Chair mats
Copier machine
Small (dorm-sized) refrigerator with freezer compartment
a digital camera/video recorder

Furniture:

color scheme in blues/greens/plums/ivory
four to six lightweight 6' folding tables and chairs
Two upholstered armchairs
Several area rugs: one 9' x 12'; two or three 5' x 8'; and one 4' x 6'

Office Supplies:

Paper: Copier, Inkjet, Cardstock
Inkjet cartridges for Epson C3810 and Canon ip4500
Gift cards to office supply stores

Hospitality Supplies:

Cups, napkins, coffee/tea, etc.