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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.

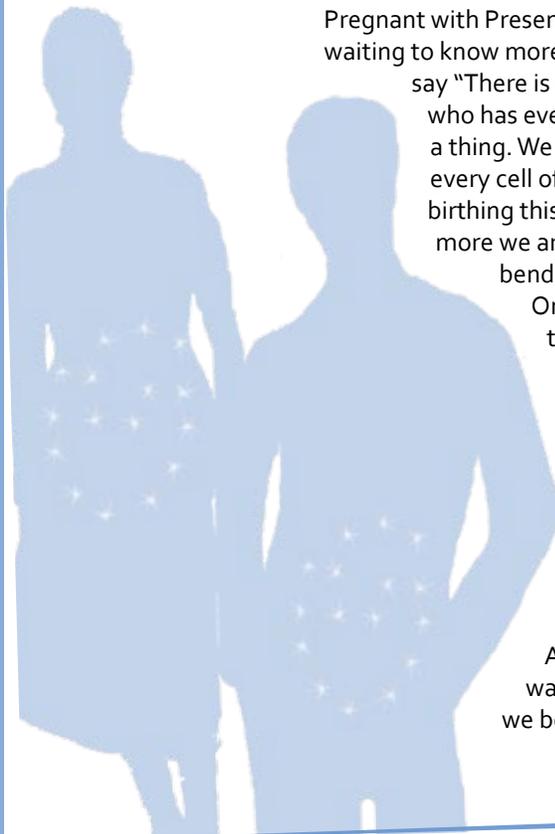
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PRESENCE

by Ellen Fox

This is the Spirituality Network for heaven's sake, so we all know that Christmas is not about presents. Well maybe a little. I fall into the same trap every year. If I find the perfect present, my children, grandchildren, and friends will know how much I love them. I will show them that I really know who they are and love them in the midst of it. Perhaps that is what Christmas is really about, being loved and known and then gifted. Gifted with presence.



I think Advent then is about remembering that we are pregnant. Pregnant with Presence. We are preparing for what already is. We are waiting to know more fully—that which is still hidden. People often say "There is no such thing as a little bit pregnant." Anyone who has ever been pregnant knows that there surely is such a thing. We have been changed by love. As that love grows, every cell of our body is transformed in preparation for birthing this new life. And the longer we are pregnant, the more we are changed until we can barely walk or sleep or bend in prayer. The same is true every time the Holy One brings something new to birth in us. We go through the death of ideas and prejudices and ways of being in the world to prepare for the creation of the new. Is this conceivably the time to be checking the transformation of the cells in your body? Do you need to make any changes to protect this new life rising within you? What do you need to continue doing to bless and acknowledge it?

God is always bringing something to birth in us. Advent is a time to acknowledge the mystery, to wait and to ponder. Emmanuel, God with us. May we be all about presence this Advent and Christmas.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS
FOR PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TOWARD ALL.
CAROL ANN, AMANDA, AND PATRICIA

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SPIRITUALITY NETWORK EVENTS

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED. To register, send name, phone, e-mail, and name of program to Spirituality Network, ATTN: PROGRAMS, 444 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215; call 614/228-8867; or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com. Registration fee may be paid by cash, check, or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover).

IN-SPIRITING: AN EXPLORATION OF CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER (A FOUR-PART SERIES)

March 5-26, 2012, 7-8:45pm at The Spirituality Network
\$65 PREPAID by February 27; \$80 after
PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see above)

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us to “go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen ... and do not heap up empty words as the pagans do ... for your Father knows what you need before you ask” (Mt. 6:6-8).

In this four-part series, we will explore the contemplative approach to prayer. Each session will include a combination of instruction and discussion in addition to an experience of contemplation. Participants will be encouraged, but not required, to continue the practice between sessions and to share their responses with the group. The series will draw upon the work of Richard Rohr, Jim Finley, Joan Chittister, Parker Palmer, and Henri Nouwen.

Come and explore the prayer of quiet with us.

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS: PRAYER RETREAT IN LENT

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 9:15am–3:30pm at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr
\$65 PREPAID before March 3; \$80 after (includes all materials and lunch)
PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see above)
Facilitated by Sr Carol Ann Spencer, OP

Lent invites us to pause and take stock of where we are in our spiritual lives. It is a wonderful time to ask God to “take away our stony hearts and give us hearts of flesh instead” (Ezek. 36:26), especially when we sense within ourselves an inclination to hold on to hurt and pain. We need God’s help in the process of forgiveness. To hold a grudge or to carry a hurt will sap one’s psychological and spiritual energy, which in turn creates cynicism, passive-aggressiveness, and spiritual boredom. This retreat day will include prayer, discussion, and instruction with time for individual reflection and community dialogue as we explore together the process of forgiveness.

Sister Carol Ann Spencer, OP, is a Dominican Sister of Peace and a teacher, spiritual director and Coordinator of the Wellstreams Training Program for Spiritual Direction. She holds degrees in Theology and Pastoral Ministry and a Certificate in Spirituality from The Institute for Spiritual Leadership.

RETURNING FROM A DISTANT COUNTRY: PRAYING WITH THE PRODIGAL SON (A RETREAT DAY)

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 9:30am-3:30pm
At Shepherd’s Corner, 987 Waggoner Rd, Blacklick
\$65 PREPAID before April 14; \$80 after (includes lunch)
PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see above).
Facilitated by Rick Hatem

Using Henri Nouwen’s *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, we will look at the powerful message of hope and healing that can be found in this well-known parable. The father’s challenge to love the son and the son’s challenge to receive that love parallel our own struggles with what it means to love and to be loved. This retreat day will include prayer, discussion, instruction, and time for individual reflection and community dialogue.

Rick Hatem is a spiritual director, retreat director, and Nouwen scholar. He serves on the faculty of The Wellstreams Training Program in Spiritual Direction.

Help The Spirituality Network when you purchase *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* via the Amazon purchase program at the Network website: <http://tinyurl.com/cp5yv9d>



Shepherd's Corner in winter

SPIRITUALITY NETWORK EVENTS

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED. To register, send name, phone, e-mail, and name of program to Spirituality Network, ATTN: PROGRAMS, 444 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215; call 614/228-8867; or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com. Registration fee may be paid by cash, check, or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover).

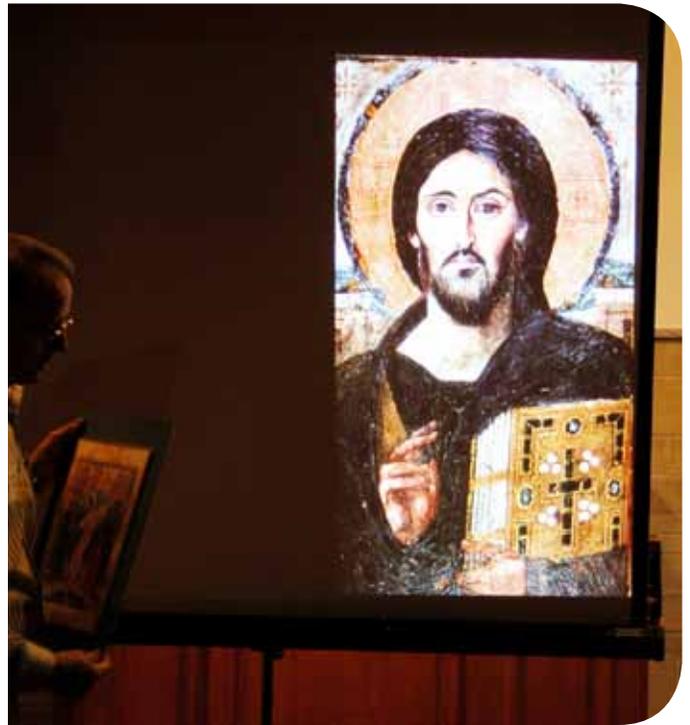
**SAVE THE DATE: 12TH ANNUAL ARTI GRAS!
CELEBRATION OF ART AND SPIRIT.**
Saturday, February 18, 2012, 9am-4pm at Trinity Lutheran
Seminary 2199 E Main St, Bexley

Details and registration information will be available in January on our website: www.spiritualitynetwork.org.

*"You can't use up creativity. The more you use,
the more you have." ~ Maya Angelou*

Engaging in any creative activity enriches life, and yet many people are intimidated by the very words "art" and "creativity." Arti Gras! was developed to provide a safe, judgment-free space to explore creativity and spirituality. Our focus is on engaging in the creative process rather than on the finished product. This event offers a wide range of possibilities for exploring the creative elements of the life journey, featuring a menu of mini-workshops in such media as collage, clay, paint, drama/movement, poetry, and writing. This is grassroots, hands-on experience open to all.

Be sure to join our Google Group Updates list to receive announcements via e-mail: <http://groups.google.com/group/spiritnetwk>



*Doorways to Prayer: Contemplation with Icons
led by John Holliger at Arti Gras! 2011*

SACRED FEMININE

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME: 1pm-3pm

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.

Raising our voices: women who inspire us to express ourselves with courage and authenticity. Each month will include discussion, reflection, and creativity as we share our sources of inspiration for lifting our voices in truth and love. Facilitators to be announced.

***In order for us to plan accordingly, PLEASE RSVP:
614/228-8867 or spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.***

February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, 2012, 1-3pm
Suggested donation: \$10



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

REFLECTIONS

At the end of my e-mails, you'll find six words:

- Love mercy
- Do justice
- Walk humbly

These have been a personal mission statement for several years. You may recognize that it's loosely based on Micah 6:8. "He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (*Today's New International Version*)

If you'll indulge me, I'd like to briefly share what this means to me. Keep in mind, I'm not a Bible scholar. My intent is not to change your mind if it means something else to you. But it might give insights into what I hope to bring to the Spirituality Network during my tenure.

Love Mercy reminds me to consider how I interact with my neighbor ... and I define my neighbor as everyone with whom I share my life, be it my wife, my children, my friends, or the stranger I encounter on the street. Every one of us needs forgiveness at some time or another. Our God is a God of second chances ... and third chances ... and seventy times seven chances. I've been the recipient of this grace. I can offer no less.

Do Justice reminds me to consider how I show up for my community. Again, I see my community pretty broadly. I suppose some see this phrase from the perspective of meting out justice for wrongdoing. Instead, I see it as need to ensure that all have fair opportunities. Contrary to what our founding fathers described, I don't think all people are created equal. From the moment of conception, some of us have advantages that others do not. That doesn't mean we shouldn't work toward creating a place where those who have been marginalized have those opportunities.

Walk Humbly reminds me to consider how I view myself. I have to see myself as God sees me. I don't think God wants me to think more of myself than I deserve. Nor do I think He wants me to think of myself as less than I am. The second half is often the most challenging for me, so I have to remind myself that God created me in His image.

I wish I could say I achieve all of these principles consistently. Sometimes the best I can hope for is that I recognize when I do not ... and adjust my heart, mind, and actions more quickly than I did when I was younger. John Wesley asked his followers, "Are you moving on toward perfection?" I'm trying to let go of perfection ... and just try to do a little better. I hope you'll join me on my journey.

Alex Rodriguez



WELLSTREAMS: AN ECUMENICAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

www.wellstreamscolumbus.org

NEXT WELLSTREAMS CLASS OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT

Be sure to check out all the information at www.wellstreamscolumbus.org.
The deadline for registration is April 15, 2012.
The ninth class will begin in August 2012.

WELLSTREAMS WORKSHOPS

These workshops are open to anyone who desires to grow and are ideal for persons in helping professions, lay ministers, caregivers, etc. Please preregister by calling 614/228-8867 or via e-mail: carol.spencer1@juno.com.

EXPLORING THE ENNEAGRAM—A JOURNEY TO SELF-UNDERSTANDING

Saturday, February 25, 2012, 9:10am-3:30pm, Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr; brown bag lunch or nearby restaurant, 12:30-1:30pm; fee \$60

This workshop will explore the ways the Enneagram can help us in our journey of self-discovery. The Enneagram is much broader and deeper than other personality theories and is of greater value to those seeking to know the real person who lives inside each of us, what motivates us, and how we can become a more whole individual. This workshop is a basic introduction, not only to types, but also to the centers, which help us to grasp the deeper levels of this complex system.

The Enneagram is an increasingly popular tool that supports people in understanding themselves and others because it answers the age-old question, "Why do people do what they do?" This knowledge moves people toward healing.

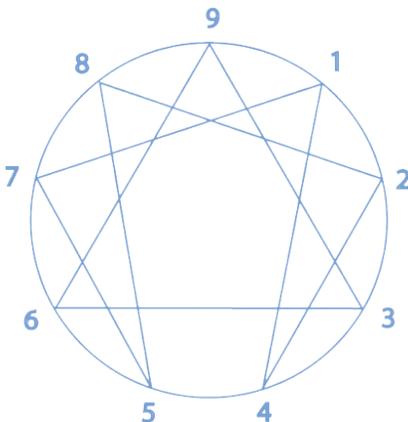
AWAKENING THE DREAMER—CHANGING THE DREAM

Saturday, April 28, 2012, 9:10am-3:30pm, Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr; brown bag lunch or nearby restaurant, 12:30-1:30pm; fee \$60

This workshop is a transformative educational experience that empowers participants to respond to humanity's current situation with action and informed, grounded optimism about our future. Through dynamic group interactions, leading edge information, and inspiring multimedia, participants in this workshop are moved to reconnect with their deep concern for our world and empowered to make a difference.

Designed with the collaboration of some of the finest scientific, indigenous, and activist minds in the world, the workshop explores the current state of our planet from a new perspective and connects participants with a powerful movement to reclaim our future.

Facilitators: Both Barbara Davis and Maxine Shonk, OP, have been trained to facilitate workshops on this material. Both Barbara and Maxine are spiritual directors and leaders of retreats.



Facilitator: Carol Ann Spencer, OP, is a spiritual director, a retreat leader, and Director of Wellstreams. She is a graduate of the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago and also earned an M.P.S. in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in Chicago where she received a Certificate for Enneagram Workshops.



ALWAYS WE BEGIN AGAIN

by Judy Smoot

The ministry of Always We Begin offered its first Internet-based retreat this summer. We had 12 participants from across the United States and Canada, both caregivers and those with chronic disease. Some of the feedback we received:

"To be able to honestly express my feeling in a community of people seeking God and to read other's struggles both similar and different has made me feel less alone and kept me seeking after God instead of falling into a pit of despair or whining or helplessness."

"I have been touched and enriched by this experience. This retreat has been an opportunity for me to take stock of where I am and give thanks for the graciousness of God to me, every day, and in every moment."

"I have been amazed at the level of honest sharing so quickly ... it is important to continue this type of offering online. I can't get to urban places where hands-on opportunities abound."

"In many ways this had been a reentry for me—a way out of isolation and back into life, and I have each of you to thank."

Visit AWBA at <http://www.spiritualitynetwork.org/awba.html> to learn more about the next Internet offering, *Strength for the Journey*, created specifically for caregivers, in January 2012. Other upcoming events in 2012 include:

- February/March (Internet): *Caring for Your Financial Health*
- May 5: *A Walk on the Mild Side, An Experience with Equine-Assisted Learning*
- May 18-19: *A Day Away—Rest, Reflection, and Refueling*

For more information or to be added to the AWBA e-mail list for newsletters and notices of upcoming events, e-mail Judy Smoot, Executive Director, at judysmoot4awba@aol.com.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Patricia J. Gibboney, CFRE

As we count our blessings during this holiday season, we are reminded of the many gifts that have been given to The Spirituality Network during the past year, as well as during the past 25 years. It is because of your generosity that the organization continues to thrive.

This is the time of year when organizations begin fiscal planning for the upcoming year. Our personal mailboxes are filled with requests to support worthy causes and programs. In this challenging economic climate, it is often a difficult choice as to where to place our financial resources. The advice from many philanthropists is to "follow your heart."

During the past several months, the Board of Directors has been focusing on strategic planning around financial sustainability for The Spirituality Network. The discussions have led us in several directions as we evaluate how we conduct the business of operating an organization. Foremost, we are committed to being good stewards of the gifts that are presented to us by our benefactors. These gifts are not only monetary in nature but also include the talents and expertise that many of you share with us.

For The Spirituality Network, fundraising is a form of ministry. As a part of this ministry we share with you our mission and vision. In doing so, we invite you to participate with us by investing in this mission and vision. When you do, you are making a difference in the spiritual life of many people. We guarantee that you will feel good and much richer by supporting the organization. Last holiday season I gave each of my 10 grandchildren a few dollars that I said was my gift to them. I then asked that they find someone or some place where help was needed and make an offer to donate that money. With the help of their parents, they were all able to identify a recipient of their gift. When I asked each of them individually how they felt about the experience, without hesitation the consensus was, "It made me feel very good and happy."

This is also the time of the year that we seek your financial support. As you consider how to make your year-end gifts, we hope that you will prayerfully consider The Spirituality Network. We know that if you "follow your heart" you will "feel very good and happy."

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.
(2 Cor. 9:11)

BOOKS

AND MORE

Discerning Life Transitions: Listening Together in Spiritual Direction, by Dwight H. Judy (Morehouse Publishing, 2010).

Judy has written *Discerning Life Transitions* not only for people in discernment, but equally for spiritual directors accompanying individuals in discernment. He notes that his own life has been marked by major transitions every 10 to 15 years, and often these included changes in location too. Drawing on examples from his life and the lives of women and men he has accompanied in discernment, Judy explores a wide range of transitions arising from longings and life structures. These include shifts from lives full of accomplishment to new awareness, surprise, and a sense of being, as well as the opposite shift from being to doing.

The author adapts Daniel Levinson's *The Seasons of a Man's Life* to the arena of faith. The five outcomes of life structure for Levinson are Advancement within a stable structure; Advancement that produces a change in life structure; Failure within life structure; Breaking out—seeking a new life structure; and, Unstable life structure. Judy challenges believers to examine their faith and their practice of faith. Judy suggests a creative change process of “being born over again ... and again ... and again ... and again.”

Judy provides exercises a reader can use to work through the discernment themes. The exercises can be done individually, but there is a suggestion to work with a group, a small community, as a good way to proceed. Judy has spiritual disciplines for discernment and he asks, “What is one thing you will do each week just for fun?” He gives examples such as lunch with a friend, taking a walk or going to a movie, but encourages readers to name an activity and to schedule it so it happens.

The reader is invited to explore a passionate commitment and creative relinquishment, asking oneself, “What must I release in order to make way for that which is calling me now?” This exploration is deepened through reflection on scripture passages such as John 15: 1-11, a scene in which Jesus is the vine and his Father is the gardener, and one must be united with Jesus to bear fruit. The vine is pruned to be more fruitful. How does one face the hard question of what is “dead wood” in your life and notice what is ready to sprout?

HELP THE NETWORK WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

When you shop for books, music, gifts, or gift cards remember to use our Amazon.com link, which returns a portion of the price to the Network. Bookmark the Amazon Purchase Program link at www.spiritualitynetwork.org.

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT LIST

Behold! (CD) by The River's Voice, Trish and Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan (River's Voice Music, 2002). A collection of traditional and original music for the Christmas season. Singer-songwriters and husband/wife team of Trish and Richard invite us to slow down and listen to the wisdom of the season.

Splash! Bathtime and Bedtime Music for Grown-Up Girls (CD) by Trish Bruxvoort-Colligan (River's Voice Music, rereleased 2010). A soulful combination of humor and inspiration in music that reflects a woman's experience and inspires empowerment.

The Artist's Rule: Nurturing Your Creative Soul with Monastic Wisdom by Christine Valters Paintner (Sorin Books, 2011). A 12-week course that immerses the reader in a creative process of discovery through prayer and reflection. Each week offers suggestions for grounding both the creative and the spiritual life through three practices: walking, lectio divina, and journaling, supplemented by online resources.

Four Elements: Reflections on Nature by John O'Donohue (Harmony, 2011). A rare opportunity to revisit the late John O'Donohue in this book of previously unpublished papers on the elements of water, stone, air, and fire. He explores the ways that the natural world offers important lessons for humanity.

Blessing upon Blessing by Maxine Shonk, OP (Spirituality Network, 2010). Offers 150 blessings that readers are invited to take into their own hearts and then in turn to bestow on others. To order: <http://www.spiritualitynetwork.org/publications.html>.

In many ways Judy's book is about growing in wholeness and he leads discerners through a time of prayer, listening to one's longings, aspirations, hopes, and realities. He concludes by encouraging discerners to review the work they have done, and, if there is not one clear outcome, to “live” the different outcomes for a period of time to see if one or the other “settle(s) in your heart.” In the end one can make an action plan, check with others, and check with Christ in order to go forward with confidence.

Recommended by Rick Hatem

ONLY CONNECT:

SISTER NOREEN MALONE ON THE NETWORK'S ANNIVERSARY

Two words shimmer again and again in a conversation with Sister Noreen Malone: *connected* and *process*. As the organization she founded crosses the quarter century mark, a conversation about her perspective on the Network's past, present, and future shows how those qualities are interwoven in the lives of Sr Noreen and the Spirituality Network.

Has the Network become what you dreamed it would be?

"I am filled with awe that the Network is in its 25th year. My life, I can honestly say, is filled with gratitude for the dream of the Network. It wasn't that I had a dream for the network. It's the people's dream, here in central Ohio—God's people, all people." Early ministry experiences as a teacher, principal, and then vicar for religious and for vocations for the Diocese of Columbus taught her what people were looking for. "What they wanted and sometimes did find in their churches was connectedness, a sense of the holy in their lives, something that would help them remain hopeful. They just wanted more"

"How does a single mother with children at the family shelter stay connected and grounded? A man out of work for 2½ years—how does he stay hopeful? That for me is spirituality. However God presents God's self to us that helps us know we are not alone, that we are in relationship with God, others, and ourselves. I realized that is what everybody was looking for." When her attempts to fulfill this ministry in mainstream organizations were challenged, "I had to trust that God could use someone like me in ways new to me and others, and if we were going to reach people we had to find a way." And so the Network came to be based on principles that were very much Dominican principles—community, ministry, a contemplative way of living. "One of the greatest gifts God gives me is connecting with people. They're always teaching me—when we can be authentic, the energy between us comes to life. Today we're all connected with technology, but are our hearts and spirits connected? The Network helps people to be connected." She is grateful for Sr Carol Ann Spencer and Wellstreams leaders for building a reservoir of Wellstreams graduates who can help people practice connecting with their inner journey.

Also dear to her heart is the Women to Women Listening Ministry. "Meeting with women suffering from addiction, domestic violence, homelessness, poverty ... how do they do it day after day? They must be connected to something that gives them hope. In Women to Women we are present to and learning from those considered to be on the margins. That's the good news of the Gospel. If we're not about those on the margins, we've lost sight of the core of the Gospel mission.

by Sandra Kerka

There is a need to bring equality at every level or the next generation will suffer. I see reenergizing awareness of the importance of Women to Women." Women to Women now has 40 people serving as companions and a fifth site is opening at Shepard Library (see p. 11).



Has anything surprised you about how the Network has developed?

"The theme of the early days was 'If this is of God, it will continue.' Although there were difficult financial struggles, I am grateful to acknowledge 12 years of total support from the Dominican Sisters who housed us and sponsored my presence at the Network. The surprise is that while we moved toward greater ecumenism and through the financial difficulties, others learned to walk the journey. Now people who don't know who I am are very involved because they recognize the message as their own. I look at the new quilt ministry, at Always We Begin Again, that's the fire of new life—a constant stoking of the fire in our spiritual journey."

"I am also pleased by the growing number of men, though we still need more equality of participation. We're in this together. That connectedness again. We need ALL people on the spectrum. We need people on the margins to be invited to sit with us in developing the future and offer their perceptions and insights. To experience community, to know that we're more alike than different. We have the same dreams, desires, worries."

"Over these 25 years I've been in awe to observe how staff, board, and committee members adopted the practice of discernment. Every meeting begins with centering on God's presence within us and among us, guiding and directing our work together. That's Dominican."

Has anything disappointed you?

"Not disappointment perhaps, but fear that we will lose sight of the fact that it is the Spirit that runs the Network. Sometimes we get caught up in thinking it is our work, our doing. That's the closest to disappointment I've been. I want us never to lose sight that the one who calls us is God and we respond. All of us can get caught up in responsibility. We think we're in charge. But who is the creator?"

She also speaks of a missing piece, when an early ecological focus shifted away from the Network to Shepherd's Corner. The Network's involvement in *Awakening the Dreamer—Changing the Dream* (see p. 5) is now helping reinforce the commitment to the earth.

What are your hopes for the Network's next 25 years?

"I recognize that the paschal mystery—transformation—is always part of the process: dying to self, giving way to new life. We have to realize if we try to do it alone we won't be able to. One of my dreams: I am working with Pat Gibboney and Rebecca Bass on a solidarity scholarship that would assure us that reaching out to the margins will always be a primary role. Solidarity is a key word. Not helping another but standing with another and being strengthened by each other."

"The spiritual journey is always pushing us to a deeper place. When we face difficult things the mystery of the Spirit is there just as much. We must be willing to look at the shadow, to go deeper. The Spirituality Network has never been needed more, perhaps in ways we are not aware of yet."

While studying with people of other faith traditions at Shalem, "God became bigger, came out of the box for me there. Although I am committed to my Catholic faith, I am aware that others have different ways of worship. Another hope I have is that the Network can expand the ripples with other traditions. It is enlivening to pray with others in a wider context. We need that connectedness."

How has your spiritual journey evolved in the second half of life?

"My way of praying as an adult: God is faithful and I am the "imago Dei" who keeps trying to imitate that faithfulness and falling short over and over. It's not about perfection, not how we do it, but that we keep trying. Often in spiritual direction I use this gesture" [she intersects the fingers of both hands]. "A directee said, 'I get that—it means staying in the process.' I told her when I'm in my casket, arrange my fingers that way and everyone will see it and know what it means, I've said it so often! Staying on the journey, in the process. Growing up a good little Catholic girl, I always tried to do things perfectly. Now I trust that God is in the imperfections. My call for each of us is to stay in the process no matter what."

"I can get so caught up in the moment and I'm learning that's okay if I can stay connected, if the 'Martha' actions come from a contemplative 'Mary' place. The Mary stance can happen when I least expect it. For example, when asked to preach or write, I think I should be sitting down and doing the work, but instead everything I read or person I meet is the textbook, the Jerome bible commentary I needed to hear. Every single person can be a connecting link for me." With the world as her text, Sr Noreen is a prophet as defined by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, who wrote: "Prophets are those who are willing to be a 'presence' in the world and are prepared to engage critically in reading the word and the world."

What is the next step on your spiritual journey?

"Now as a Dominican Sister of Peace I have a new awareness of the importance of peace; When we experience deep-seated, genuine authentic peace, then we will know the next step has taken place."

"I am aware that my health and my age mean that it is time to move out of leadership of Women to Women. A collaborative circle of leaders is in development. At a recent retreat led by Sr. Maxine Shonk, I was working with clay and formed a chrysalis. The next day we were asked what do we have to let go of. The woman next to me smashed her piece and started again. But I wanted the butterfly to emerge. I was tired of waiting, yet knowing it can't be forced!"

"As I sat with my clay chrysalis, I had the ever-new awareness that the next step is—waiting. Letting the Spirit that started this continue. I will know when it's time to move on. The spirit is always doing something new. Waiting for the next step to unfold and whatever shape and color that butterfly will have will come through. In the early years of major struggle, I had the image of a very tall board fence that had no niches or handholds. I was constantly scrambling to try to climb the fence to see what the next step was, getting splinters in my hands, falling backwards. When I would finally get to the top, the next step had already been taken and I had had nothing to do with it."

With the wisdom of her soon-to-be-80 years she said, "I'm not scrambling as hard as I used to."



COMMUNITY EVENTS



C. G. JUNG ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

Jung Haus, 59 W Third Ave; 614/291-8050, JungACO@JungCentralOhio.org, www.JungCentralOhio.org. Call or e-mail for information and/or to register for these programs.

Jung and Mysticism, December 10, 2011, 10am-12pm, First Community Church, North Campus, 3777 Dublin Road, Columbus. Members \$15, nonmembers \$20 before December 2; \$20 members, \$25. Jung said, "I do not believe in God, I know." This is the path of gnosis and the mystic. Was Jung a mystic? Are you? Presenter Leigh Randolph is an endodontist, craniosacral practitioner, and a member of the JACO Board of Trustees. Her presentations are always well drawn and illuminating and very well received.

MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER

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

Special Musical Holiday Offering: Mary, the Eternal Materna, December 11, 2011, 2-3:30pm. A dramatic cantata for two voices by Teresa Tedder that celebrates the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Concurrent art exhibit, "Images of Mary—Encounters in Faith." Free will offering will be taken. Register by December 8.

STS. PETER & PAUL RETREAT CENTER

2734 Seminary Rd, Newark; 740/928-4246; e-mail: info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org; www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org

Heart and Soul: Couples Winter Retreat, February 24-25, 2012, \$120 per couple. Spend some quiet time together in the warmth of our retreat house as well as listening to talks uplifting to the heart and soul. Arrive Friday evening 7:30pm and depart Saturday evening after a 5pm candlelight dinner. Meals include Saturday breakfast and lunch. Please RSVP by phone or e-mail (see above).

Lenten Morning of Reflection, March 3, 2012, 9am-12pm, \$10. A morning interlude tending to your heart and spirit with love and compassion. Join us at 9am for a continental breakfast followed by a reflective morning with Sr. Janice Bachman, OP. Please RSVP by phone or e-mail (see above).

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

2350 Indianola Ave, Columbus; 614/558-1141; jeff@nvcoho.org; www.nvcoho.org

Don't Be Nice, Be Real: Living and Communicating Authentically, April 20-21, 2012, Friday 6-9 pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr., Columbus.

A fun, experiential, and heartfelt exploration of how to find the courage to speak your truth to other people in order to support authenticity. Learn how to say what is important to you in a way that generates connection and a sense of possibility with others. All learning levels are supported with two learning tracks throughout this training: beginner and intermediate.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

444 E Broad St, Columbus; 614-228-1741; www.first-church.org/

February 26, 2012, 5pm. Columbus International Children's Choir performs Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with chamber ensemble and shares the program with the First Church Choir.

ST. FRANCIS SPIRITUALITY CENTER

200 St. Francis Ave, Tiffin; 419/443-1485, peace@franciscanretreats.org, franciscanretreats.org/

The Cross That Spoke... and still speaks today, January 14th, 2012, 9am-3pm, \$25 (includes noon meal). Presenter: Sr. Roberta Marie Doneth, OSF. A day of reflection on the San Damiano Cross.

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR DOMINICAN STUDIES

Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall, 1216 Sunbury Rd, Columbus; 614/251-4722, <http://www.ohiodominican.edu/About-ODU/Mission/Center-for-Dominican-Studies/>. *Registration is required for all events*: Complete the online RSVP form to reserve.

Seminar: Contemporary Dominican Spirituality: Sr. Catherine Colby, OP, EdD. Certificate and/or CEUs possible. Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Fee \$50 includes books and handouts.

January 31: Conversion and Transformation

February 7: Integrity and Dominican Spirituality

February 21: Peace and Nonviolence

February 28: Building Community through Imagination and Communication in the Global Society

Transforming Lives through Faith, Ethics and Social Concerns:

January 26, 10:30am, *Aquinas Convocation: Converging Theology and Science to Transform the Modern World*. Sr. Patricia Connick, OP, Ph.D., Assistant Principal, Dominican Academy, NYC. Matesich Theatre.

February 16, 7pm, *Life of the Mind Lecture: Eradicating Poverty: What Is Our Role?* Margaret Mayce, OP, Representative for Dominican Leadership Conference at the United Nations. Colonial Room.

March 21, 7pm, *Special Public Lecture: Emerging Lay Leadership in the Church*. Zeni Fox, Ph.D., Professor of Pastoral Theology, Seton Hall University. Colonial Room.

April 26, *Catherine of Siena Celebration*: 6pm, Solemn Vespers, Sansbury, Chapel; 7pm, Catherine of Siena: Transformed for Service to Humanity, Patricia Walter, OP, Ph.D., Professor of Theology, Aquinas Institute of Theology. Colonial Room.

WOMEN TO WOMEN

One of the most enduring and valuable programs of the Spirituality Network is the Women to Women listening ministry, which works with various service agencies in Columbus. Women to Women operates in four different sites in the city and brings together women who may be struggling with abuse, violence, homelessness, or poverty and volunteer companions who offer “reverent listening and nonjudgmental presence.” For all who participate, it is an opportunity to share stories in a safe space. Although the stories may differ, the experience of being women together is shared by all.

A fifth site is currently being developed at the Shepard Library at 790 N. Nelson Rd. If you recognize the value in sharing support, knowledge, and wisdom with other women, if you have the capacity to be a listening presence, Women to Women needs you. The program provides mentoring and training for companions. If any woman is interested in this unique opportunity or would like more information, please call Amanda Cushing, program coordinator for the Spirituality Network, at 614/228-8867.



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, 2-3:15pm. Monthly book club facilitated by Marialein Anzenberger, OP, and Colleen Gallagher, OP. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus; 614/416-1910; martindeporres@oppeace.org; www.martindeporrescenter.net.

BLUE HERON SANGHA

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

THOMAS MERTON STUDY GROUP

Third Mondays, 6-8pm. Vespers in Motherhouse chapel, 2320 Airport Dr, and 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 free and open to all, for writing, reading, and gentle critiquing in a safe, supportive environment. Contact Jeanne Marlowe at jamarlowe@juno.com, 614/476-8802.

January 7, February 4, 10am-12:30pm; Columbus Public Library, 96 S Grant Ave, 3rd Fl. Board Room.

INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO SPIRITUAL SHARING GROUP

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; www.iaco.org.

December 7, January 4, February 1, March 7, 12-1 pm, Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S Grant Ave, 3rd fl board room.



444 E Broad St
Columbus OH 43215
spiritnetwk@hotmail.com
spiritualitynetwork.org

The Spirituality Network is an ecumenical outreach addressing the “thirst for the God of Life.” Founded by Christians, our aspiration is to be a community of acceptance and inclusion. We seek to create hope, peace, and purpose in our community.

Our programs include:

- Wellstreams Ecumenical Program 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.

LENTEN JOURNAL

A special 25th Anniversary edition of the Lenten Journal will be available after the first of the year. Announcements will be sent to our Google Group and posted on our website.

WISH LIST

We are in need of used paper that is clean on one side for xeroxing and printing. Any donations would be appreciated. Call the office at 614/228-8867.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jacquelyn Stith Dean was recently commissioned as a Minister of Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation for the United Church of Christ. Jackie is a graduate of the Wellstreams Program and currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Spirituality Network. She is a member of First Congregational Church where she will assume the responsibilities of her new ministry.

THE BIG GIVE!

A huge thank you to all who participated in the Columbus Foundation’s Big Give. Preliminary estimates indicate that donations of more than \$13,000 were designated for the Spirituality Network and Always We Begin Again.