



SnapShots

The Newsletter of the School of the Spirit Ministry

Fall 2012

CONTENTS

[Spending Time with God](#) *the Silent Retreat in Cincinnati*

[One Small Step for Green-kind](#) *Stewarding our Resources*

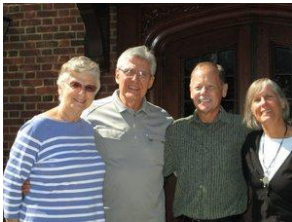
[The Courage of the Desert](#) *the new class of On Being a Spiritual Nurturer*

[One Giant Leap for Scholarships](#) *Abundant Gifts at Work*

[Upcoming Events](#) *Remembering our Intention*

[Forward this message to a friend](#)

Spending Time with God



Carolyn Moon, Franchot Ballinger, Roger Hansen, Linda Chidsey at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center

We are so grateful that SotS could offer this Silent Retreat in Cincinnati, the first for SotS in the Midwest, and to do so with the offer of significant scholarship assistance.

“I have never before experienced a gathering of Quakers who were so deeply committed. It deepened my sense of the presence of God.” (retreat participant)

From the opening evening, the group of 18 (11 women, 7 men, and 3 couples ranging in age from mid-20s through early 80s) responded to an invitation to go deep, take off their masks, and open themselves to God in the context of this blessed community.

“A certain malaise I’ve been living with lifted. I came away with greater acceptance of what I perceive my calling is now.” (retreat participant)

The group included our first mentees, Franchot Ballinger (Eastern Hills MM) and Roger Hansen (Milwaukee MM). *“I had periods of precious experience of the presence of God,”* Roger reflected. After the retreat, *“the feeling remained of a deep undercurrent of Presence to which I can continually return and be renewed. ... My intention to focus my life more on practicing the Presence and assisting others in pointing to this path is confirmed.”*

In addition to the practice of Lectio Divina, meals in silence, and active silence, participants were given the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the leaders and mentees. Reflection groups met twice during the retreat.

If you believe you may be called to the facilitation of silent retreats, please consider whether SotS’ mentoring program is for you.

[> Mentoring Program](#) (deadline for Powell House, Nov. 5)

One Small Step for Green- kind

Donate
Online

Donate
by check

Will you help us? Very soon you will receive our Annual Appeal by email. This saves precious resources. However, it is a risk because for our programs to happen we need to raise up to \$35,000 to cover our annual operating expenses. Our goal this year is to raise \$16,000 toward our Annual Fund.

So please open the email when it arrives, otherwise we will need to revert to a paper appeal through the mail.

And thank you to those who have already given, including all teachers and members of the SotS Board. If you wish to donate now, just click on one of the buttons to the left.

[> Financial Summary](#)

The Courage of the Desert



The 9th Class at Plymouth Meeting



Core Teachers (Mike, Patty, Becky) with Dave Miller at Plymouth Meeting

This September, 19 Friends from 8 yearly meetings gathered at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA, to begin their journey within the *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program. We honor their courage to enter the desert to meet God. The tempter is ever present, but so is the promise of the Gospel.

"Our mission, our calling, is to offer hospitality to the active life of God, and so all ministry is given to help each other in this great task. We encounter this life in the place of stillness, when the many voices calling and commanding us from self, society, and culture can be set into the background, and for a while, to our surprise, lose their command over our attention. In reaching to the Lord's lovely spirit, we can learn to feel our unity with others, and with the creation, and our love for them; and there we can be confident of receiving guidance about how to join in God's work of healing and reconciliation, creation and thanksgiving."

--letter to Friends in and around Berkeley from Brian Drayton
(3/8/07)

These words point to the essence of what happened in the first residency. The class is being formed, worship was deep, Christ was lifted up, the scriptures were opened, hearts were tendered and minds were fed. The teachers — Becky Phipps, Patty Levering, and Mike Green, accompanied by Eric Evans as the person-of-presence, and with David Miller and Barbarajene Williams as visiting teachers — walked in liminal time, being vulnerable and open to how the Spirit stirred and led them. The residency was blessed.

[> Treat: Barbarajene Williams, *Enough Time*](#)

One Giant Leap for Scholarships



You gave generously during our recent *Abundant Gifts* Call for Support which ended in December 2011. Because of your generosity, we have been able to offer significant scholarship assistance totaling \$14,990 to those called to the *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program and to the participants of the Cincinnati Silent Retreat. The need is great for those who remember that in very hard times, comfort and guidance can be found in the living silence. Thank you for helping us serve them.

2013 Events

Jan. 18 - 21 A Silent Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
Mentoring Program, first review of applications, Nov. 4, 2012

Sept. 27 - 30 A Silent Retreat, St. Raphaela Spiritual Center,
Haverford, PA

Mentoring Program, first review of applications, date tbd

Nov. 14 - 17 Spiritual Renewal Retreat, Avila Retreat Center,
Durham, NC



a ministry of prayer and learning devoted to
the School of the Spirit

Mail: 1010 Wells St. Durham, NC 27707

Phone: (919) 929-2339

Email: info@schoolofthespirit.org

Web: schoolofthespirit.org

This Ministry serves the Religious Society of Friends throughout North America
and is under the care of the Worship and Care Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting