



Board Members: Tom Paxson, Judy Geiser, Angi York Crane, Jan Blodgett, Matt Drake (clerk), Patty Levering, John Carle, Eric Evans, Becky Phipps, Susan Wilson. Not shown: Mike Green, Carolyn Moon, Tom Rie (liaison from PYM), Rita Willett

Other News, and Upcoming Events

The Essentials of SotS' Silent Retreats documents the history and the particular practices which characterize an SotS silent retreat. It can be read at, and downloaded from, <http://schoolofthespirit.org/library/>.

Our pamphlet **The Spiritual Care Committee** is now available from **QuakerBooks of FGC** at http://www.quakerbooks.org/the_spiritual_care_committee.php.

Applications for the **Retreat Mentoring Program** (<http://schoolofthespirit.org/mentoring/>) are reviewed after May 5 and November 5 of each year. It would be timely for you to apply now!

2013 Events

- Sept. 27 - 30** A Silent Retreat, St. Raphaela Spiritual Center, Haverford, PA
Registration at <http://schoolofthespirit.org/retreats/>
- Nov. 14 - 17** Spiritual Renewal Retreat, Avila Retreat Center, Durham, NC
Registration by invitation

2014 Events

- Jan. 18 - 21** A Silent Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
Registration at <http://www.powellhouse.org>
- April 4 - 7** A Silent Retreat, The DeKoven Center, Racine, WI
Registration at <http://schoolofthespirit.org/retreats/>



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

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The School of the Spirit Ministry serves the Religious Society of Friends throughout North America and under the care of the Worship and Care Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

SnapShots

The Newsletter of the School of the Spirit Ministry

Spring 2013



In this newsletter

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The 7 Habits of Effective Spiritual Nurturers

Do you have a personal "rule" for how you conduct yourself each day? What might a "rule" look like for a Spiritual Nurturer? At the last residency of *On Being Spiritual Nurturer*, we were inspired by the presence of Kathy Frick, the Director of Oblates for the **Benedictine Sisters of Virginia** (<http://www.osbva.org/>). She led us through the subtle balances of living a life of faith within community as articulated in the **Rule of St. Benedict** (<http://www.benedictfriend.org/article/3/the-rule-of-st-benedict>). Here are 7 habits that we might live into as Spiritual Nurturers in our meetings.

(continued on next page)



Donate

With the gifts of 67 donors we have almost met our \$16,000 Annual Fund goal! Can you help us raise the last \$1,000 dollars?

Just click the button to the left to donate online. Alternatively, you may write a check to "PYM" with "SotS" in the memo line and send to

1010 Wells St., Durham, NC 27707. Thank you!

The 7 Habits of Effective Spiritual Nurturers (continued)

1. ACCEPT. I fully accept and love my community for what it is and where it is. I mind my own heart, thoughts, and words so that they are as clear as I can know from any judgment.
2. SURRENDER. I remember that God's work is never done and that each one of us, and all of humanity, is a work in progress.
3. STABILITY. I am prepared that God's work through me is a long-term project.
4. DISCIPLINE. I focus on listening for the yearning in each person, understanding that that yearning is from and for God. I commit to naming that yearning whenever I can, even through the veil of high emotions.
5. HOSPITALITY. Wherever I am, I attempt to create spaces where there is an invitation for intimate disclosure.
6. HUMILITY. The community is not mine but God's. It is precious. So I take care, knowing that each act and word will have its consequences. Some consequences may not be comfortable.
7. PRAY. I commit to pray for and watch over my community.

Source: Michael Green, *The Benedictine Rule in Translation* (from a presentation to the 9th class of *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer*)



Silent Retreats in PA, NY, and WI

We are pleased to announce the expansion of our **Silent Retreats in the Manner of Friends** with a retreat at the DeKoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin, April 4-7, 2014. This retreat will be led by **Roger Hansen** (Milwaukee, Northern Yearly Meeting) and **Linda Chidsey** (Housatonic, New York Yearly Meeting). Roger was in our mentoring program, serving first at our retreat at the Transfiguration Center in Cincinnati, OH, last September, and then at the retreat at Powell House this past January. It is joy for us to witness the flowering of new leadership in the Silent Retreat program.

Retreats will also be offered at the St. Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford, PA, September 27-30, 2013, and at Powell House, January 18-21, 2014. **Registration is now open** for the retreats in PA and WI at <http://schoolofthespirit.org/retreats/>.

At the same time as we have been led to expand the Silent Retreat program, we have been moved to articulate the history of Silent Retreats under our care and what characterizes an SotS Silent Retreat. The result is a document, **The Essentials of SotS's Silent Retreats**. It is available to read on, and for download from, our website at <http://schoolofthespirit.org/library/>.

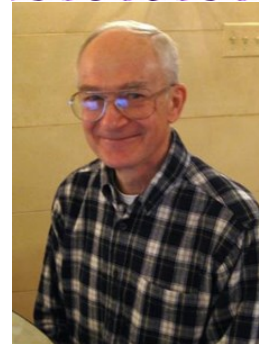
The Tiny Grain of Wheat that Falls



We are delighted to announce that our teacher and facilitator for the 4th biennial Spiritual Renewal Retreat will be **Stephanie Ford**. She will explore the topic "**The Tiny Grain of Wheat that Falls: Love's Lessons in Failure and Loss.**"

Stephanie, formally professor of Christian Spirituality at Earlham School of Religion, now serves as Minister of Christian Formation at Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, NC (<http://www.binkleychurch.org/about/>).

The purpose of the biennial Spiritual Renewal Retreat is to support the ministry of those who have completed one of the School of the Spirit Ministry's programs (*On Being a Spiritual Nurturer*, *The Way of Ministry*, a recent Silent Retreat). If you are eligible, you are invited to attend the retreat at the Avila Retreat Center in Durham, North Carolina, from Thursday, November 14 to Sunday, November 17, 2013.



Our Newest Board Member, Tom Paxson

We welcome **Tom Paxson** as our newest Board member. Born into a Quaker family with deep 17th century roots in Bucks County, PA, Tom is now a member of Kendal Monthly Meeting, PA. He has served as presiding clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting and in 2010 gave that yearly meeting's Plummer Lecture, *Opening Oneself to God*.* His love of philosophy has been brought to the service of Friends through his concern for ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. He has served for many years on FGC's Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee which represents Friends at the World Council of Churches.

* <http://www.ilym.org/tiki-index.php?page=PlummerLectures>