

# SnapShots

Newsletter of the School of the Spirit Ministry

Fall 2013

[schoolofthespirit.org](http://schoolofthespirit.org)



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Pictured above in a lyrical pose responding to our pamphlet [\*The Spiritual Care Committee\*](#), the 2013 Spiritual Renewal Retreatants:

(back row L-R): Matt Drake, Wendell Holland, Sharon Annis, Sharon Frame, MaryAnn Greenway, Jane Sobie, Kristin Olsen-Kennedy, Bill Samuel, Andrew Wright, Beckey Phipps

(standing L-R): Connie Green, Judy Geiser, Christine Greenland, Susan Wilson

(seated L-R): Mike Green, Anne Hill, Ellen Michaud, Rita Willett, Carole Treadway, Ellie Caldwell, Patty Levering, Marie Ryan

(kneeling L-R): Charley Basham, Catherine Cox, Margie Dingman, Maureen Flannery, Marsha Green, Judy Purvis, Ashley Wilcox (*congratulations, Ashley, on your Pickett Endowment grant!*)



## Lloyd Lee Wilson on Spiritual Authority

At a recent residency of the *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program, Lloyd Lee Wilson visited and spoke on the topic of spiritual authority in our Friends' meetings. We are grateful for his permission to share some of his reflections in this newsletter.

"The reason we have a problem with authority is because we misunderstand its nature ... We take definitions out of one world into another world where it does not work ... The world God sets for us is so different you almost need to be born again to understand it ... because it is invitational, self-sacrificing, and inclusive ... Worldly power separates while God's authority is inclusive ... In the Religious Society of Friends, one does not exercise spiritual authority, one is exercised by God's authority if one is humble enough to follow the guide closely."



[More from Lloyd Lee \(pdf and mp3\) and a clarification of the Lamb's War ...](#)



## The Gift That Keeps On Giving, by Jane Sobie

Jane attended the recent Spiritual Renewal Retreat ably led by Stephanie Ford. She writes:

"Who would have thought that attending the November 2013 Spiritual Renewal Retreat, I would realize – on a much deeper level – just how being in the two year program changed my life. I now call School of the Spirit, the gift that keeps on giving." [More from Jane ...](#)



[Click here for photos from the retreat](#)

With unbounded gratitude for the work of the Spiritual Renewal Retreat organizing committee: Maureen Flannery, Judy Geiser, Judy Purvis, Susan Wilson, and Andrew Wright.

*We are planning to hold the next Spiritual Renewal Retreat in the **Spring** of 2015 at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA. Stay tuned for the actual dates. If you have suggestions as to the program topic and/or the presenter, please [contact us](#).*



## Upon Retirement As Core Teachers

Patty and Mike have prayed, worshipped, and worked together as Core Teachers since 2006. Mike was a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> class of *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* back in 1995-97, was invited back as a visiting teacher in the 4<sup>th</sup> class, and became a Core Teacher for the 5<sup>th</sup> class in 2001. Patty joined Mike on the Core Teaching Team in 2006 with the 7<sup>th</sup> class after her participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> class. They are now completing their 3<sup>rd</sup> class together as Core Teachers.

[More from Patty and Mike ...](#)



[Click here for more information on the search for new Core Teachers](#)

## Annual Giving

It is that time of year and we are no different than other organizations needing a few dollars to continue our mission. Our goal this year is \$20,000. Please consider a gift. SotS has been one very important way in which the spiritual life of the Religious Society of Friends has been enriched over the past 20+ years.

You can give [online](#) or by check. Simply write out your check to *PYM*, put **SotS** on the memo line, and send it to the address at the foot of this newsletter.

*Thank You!*



## 2014 Events

### Silent Retreats in the Manner of Friends

January 17 - 20 at Powell House, Old Chatham, NY  
Led by Linda Chidsey and Carolyn Moon

[\*\*More information and registration\*\*](#)

April 4 - 7 at the DeKoven Center, Racine, WI  
Led by Roger Hansen and Catherine Cox (photo below)

[\*\*More information and registration\*\*](#)

September 18 - 21 at the Avila Retreat Center, Durham, NC  
Led by Patty Levering and Carole Treadway

[\*\*Click here for more information on our Mentoring Program for Retreat Leaders\*\*](#)



David Whyte, Self Portrait, from *Fire in the Earth* (1992)

It doesn't interest me if there is one God  
or many gods.  
I want to know if you belong or feel  
abandoned.  
If you know despair or can see it in others.  
I want to know  
if you are prepared to live in the world  
with its harsh need  
to change you. If you can look back  
with firm eyes  
saying this is where I stand. I want to know  
if you know  
how to melt into that fierce heat of living  
falling toward  
the center of your longing. I want to know  
if you are willing  
to live, day by day, with the consequence of love  
and the bitter  
unwanted passion of your sure defeat.

I have heard, in *that* fierce embrace, even  
the gods speak of God.



A Ministry under the care of [Philadelphia Yearly Meeting](#)



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

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