

SnapShots

Newsletter of the School of the Spirit Ministry

Spring 2014

schoolofthespirit.org



Pictured above, the SotS Board:

(back row L-R): Patty Levering, Angi York Crane, Jan Blodgett, Eric Evans, Tom Rie (PYM liaison, Worship and Care)
(middle row L-R): Judy Purvis, Beckey Phipps, Susan Wilson, Sharon Frame, Judy Geiser
(seated L-R): Matt Drake, Rita Willett, Tom Paxson, Mike Green

A Welcome, Welcome to . . .

. . . [New Core Teachers](#)

On Being a Spiritual Nurturer has a new Core Teaching Team

. . . [New Contemplative Retreats](#)

Contemplative (not 'Silent'), Four Sites, Mentoring Program, Flexible Fees

. . . [New Board Members](#)

Judy Purvis and Sharon Frame

. . . [and don't forget, please consider a donation](#)

\$4,000 to go by June 30 to meet our annual goal

"It brought me back to the core of Quakerism. I'm leaving here spirit-filled rather than simply spirit-aware ... I felt nurtured all weekend."

(From a participant at the recent DeKoven Contemplative Retreat)



New Core Teachers

The School of the Spirit Ministry is delighted to announce the appointments of **Evelyn Jadin** and **Rita Willett** as Core Teachers of the *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program. Beginning this summer, Evelyn and Rita will join Beckey Phipps to begin preparations for the 10th class of the program. The 10th class is expected to hold its first residency in September 2015 at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA.

Evelyn, a member of Jamestown Friends Meeting (North Carolina Yearly Meeting--FUM), is a graduate of Guilford College and the Earlham School of Religion. She has familiarity with the different branches of Friends, having attended Friendship Meeting (NCYM Conservative) and worked at New Garden Meeting (NCYM-FUM) while in the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program at Guilford. Her experiences include eldering (accompanying Deborah Shaw in traveling in the ministry throughout England), teaching (as an Adjunct Professor of Religion at Guilford, and pastoring (as Youth Pastor at Jamestown Meeting, as a Pastoral Intern at First Friends in Greensboro, and currently as Associate Campus Minister at Guilford). She brings a knowing of emerging issues among Friends, particularly those of young adult Friends.



Rita is a member of Richmond Friends Meeting (Baltimore Yearly Meeting). She is a graduate of the *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program (8th class, 2009-11) and currently serves on the SotS Board. During her participation in the *Spiritual Nurturer* program, she heard a call to a deeper life of Christian faithfulness and this has led to her studies at the Earlham School of Religion. She has extensive experience in teaching and has been acknowledged for her teaching excellence. In addition to her excitement in engaging with theology and the Bible, she brings a knowing of the spiritual issues connected with addiction and illness.

We give thanks to God for all those who felt led to apply, for the discernment over several months of the Teacher Search Committee, for the clarity given us regarding these appointments, and for the richness of the new Core Teaching Team. In due course we will announce events where those interested in applying for the next class of *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* may meet the new Core Teaching Team.



Contemplative (not 'Silent') Retreats

What's in a name? Times change. Some people who hear the words "silent retreat" for a four-day period are intimidated by the amount of aloneness and silence they think they will encounter. Other people have participated in a "silent retreat" at Catholic retreat centers. So they expect a brief period of introduction to the retreat, presented by the leader, followed by continuing silence. This retreat model is not what the School of the Spirit Ministry has offered. In order to be clearer about the content of our retreat and the role of silence, SotS has renamed its retreats as "contemplative." In our retreats silence is the foundation on which the other elements rest. There is time apart and time together, speaking and listening, time for the ordinary and devotional time—the rhythm of contemplative living.

A Commitment to Four Retreat Sites

Opening to Grace, Sept. 18 - 21, 2014, at the Avila Retreat Center, Durham, NC

Led by Patty Levering and Carole Treadway. [Registration is open](#)

November 6 - 9, 2014, at the St. Raphaela Retreat Center, Haverford, PA

Led by Catherine Cox and Linda Chidsey

Dwelling Deep, January 16 - 19, 2015, at Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

Led by Linda Chidsey and Carolyn Moon.

Spring 2015 (dates tba) at the DeKoven Center, Racine, WI

Led by Roger Hansen and April Allison

The expanded number of contemplative retreats is made possible by new leaders coming through our [mentoring program](#).

Flexible Fees

Despite the availability of scholarship funds, we hear that interested Friends are reluctant to ask for financial assistance. To eliminate this obstacle, we are moving to a flexible fee structure beginning with the retreat this September in North Carolina. With flexible fees, SotS names the cost per person of the event and then allows registrants to pay what their personal resources will allow. SotS is committed to making its events accessible to all.



New Board Members



Judy Purvis accepted the SotS ministry's call to serve on the board earlier this year.

Reflecting on her path to board service, Judy recognizes that such service is more than simply a way of being of service:

"I was a participant in the eighth *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* class (2009-2011) and it was a unique opportunity to be with a group of people who were intentionally pursuing spiritual growth and willing to do that exploration using Christ-centered language, even though that isn't what everybody uses in their home meetings. There are lots of groups I can support by helping out, but knowing many of the people

on the board quite well I knew that saying yes to being a board member would be a good spiritual exercise as well as doing good work."

Serving on the board won't be the first time Judy has worked with Quaker groups. She has served on Friends General Conference central and executive committees and been involved in Lake Erie and Northern Yearly Meetings, as well as having served in many roles at the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in Chapel Hill, NC. She is still a member at Chapel Hill Meeting, but is in the process of transferring her membership to Friendship Meeting in Greensboro, NC. She moved to Greensboro last year after retiring from her job as a medical editor in order to be with her partner, John. In retirement she continues to knit, and has gotten involved in Working America, an AFLCIO-affiliated organization tackling immigration and other labor issues. She has also been gardening: "I've not been much of a gardener up to this point because doing it by myself was overwhelming. But John is more experienced, and together we've been flinging mulch with a vigorous hand and gardening up a storm."

Sharon Frame, a member of the seventh *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* class (2007-2009) accepted the call to serve on the SotS board this spring, after assisting the board in several other venues.

"Since completing the *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program, I've helped out with fundraising and served on the development committee, and the question of serving on the board has come up several times. But it was only recently, when I agreed to accept clerking of the development committee that I felt called to become a member of the board.

"It's not lost on me that it took more than one invitation for me to participate in the *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program either. Carolyn Moon invited me several times, but it took repeated invitations before I applied. I was surprised when, despite putting in a late application, I was accepted. Then, at the first class, in our first worship I found that I had the first message, which was essentially, 'thou shalt not hide.' My life has gone to very deep places in being faithful to that message."



Sharon currently works as a Development Manager at Friends General Conference, but she also has experience working around other Quakers. She describes herself as "a sort of a professional Quaker." She started picking and packing books at Friends General Conference bookstore 20 years ago, has directed Beacon Hills Friends House in Boston, served as a secretary and bookkeeper for a monthly meeting, and also worked in development for Friends World Committee for Consultation.

"Between all my Quaker work – paid and volunteer – I'm hoping to turn some attention soon to writing and poetry. I don't know much about poetry, but I'd like to explore it and see if I have a poetic imagination."

*With regret, we say goodbye to **John Carle** on the board. His humor and insightful questions will be missed.*



Annual Giving

Please remember that our programs, support for our new teachers, and our scholarships would not be possible without your financial support. Our goal for the year is \$20,000. We only need to raise \$4,000 by June 30 to meet our goal.

Please help us reach our goal.

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!



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



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