

# Contemplative Outreach of Central Pennsylvania

## Chapter Meeting – Bethany Retreat Center, Frenchville

*Saturday, November 1, 2008*

**Present:** Roseanne Havird (Eastern Regional Representative), Sr. Therese Dush, Sr. Ruth Ann Madera, Nancy Cord-Baran, Gwen Stimely, Cathy Johnson, Jet Schneider, Fr. Philip Billotte, Claire Caputo, Marty Karchner, Patty Neiner, & Nicole Fedder

The meeting opened with a 20 minute centering prayer period.

Introductions were given by each person.

Sr. Therese gave the names of people who expressed an interest in the steering committee but who could not be present: Phyllis Austin, Tim Reddington, Carol Baker, Rita Kibler, Brian Gates, Ellen Jankowski, Jerry Cierpilowski, Lynn Bruner, Msgr. Max Karg, & Don Schneider.  
(See attachment for address and emails)

Roseanne Havird gave the group a thorough explanation of Contemplative Outreach and the many different areas of service. She explained the service leadership team and the many areas of service within the team.

Break

Second half of the meeting the name of the chapter was changed and is now called Contemplative Outreach of Central Pennsylvania and this chapter now has a steering committee. We first listed the assets of the chapter: Bethany Retreat Center, established prayer groups, 7 formation Introduction to Centering Prayer trainers, ecumenical, 2 trained servant leaders coordinator in Centering Prayer, Prison Ministry, 12 Step Presenter, Formation for Contemplative Outreach Service offered each year. Sr. Therese explained that she has been working as the chapter coordinator, and that she is willing to continue doing that work for a while. But her goal is for someone else to take on the role of coordinator.

People then offered the following areas of service:

**Nancy Cord-Baran** – Presenter of Centering Prayer, facilitator and mentor, 12 Step Workshops & meetings, and annual 12 Step Retreats.

**Sr. Ruth An Madera** – Presenter of Centering Prayer and retreats

**Gwen Stimely** – Communication area, webpage for Contemplative Outreach of Central PA, electronic newsletters (want 2 people on her team).

**Sr. Therese Dush** – Certified Trainer for presenters and mentor of new presenters, Presenter of Centering Prayer and retreats, provides retreats both at Bethany and away, and available for Spiritual Direction

**Jet Schneider** – Centering Prayer for State College, facilitator of prayer groups

**Claire Caputo** – Mail out resource tapes, email addresses, and mailings

**Marty Karchner** – Centering Prayer presenter, presenter of Lectio, and retreats

**Fr. Philip Billotte** – Prison Ministry, retreats, resource for Saturday mornings of prayer

**Patty Neiner** – Discerning how she will serve

**Cathy Johnson** – Discerning how she will serve

**Nicole Fedder** – Bookkeeping for Chapter and work with Gwen Stimely.

It was agreed that each member of the steering committee would encourage their prayer groups to participate in the United Day of Prayer, Saturday, March 21, 2009 at Bethany Retreat Center.

**After the day of prayer will be the next steering committee meeting.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Nicole Fedder*

**Contemplative Outreach of Frenchville, PA**  
**Chapter Meeting – Good Shepherd Church, State College**  
*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

**Present:** Roseanne Havird (Eastern Regional Representative), Sr. Therese Dush, Phyllis Austin, Bill & Jet Schnieder, Tim Reddington, Carol Baker, Nancy Cord-Baran, Cynthia Myers, & Nicole Fedder

The meeting opened with prayer led by Sr. Therese. Introductions were given by each person, who they are and where they are from. Roseanne Havird explained that she is the Chapter Service Representative for the Eastern Region.

Sr. Therese gave the history of the Chapter:

- Initiated in early 1990's – to get retreats published in newsletter, thus the name Contemplative Outreach of Frenchville, PA.
- In the early 90's on 2 occasions Sr. Therese asked the groups as a whole and then asked individuals and there was a lack of interest.
- 2 years ago Nancy Cord-Baran initiated a meeting with Roseanne and Sr. Therese to consider an effective chapter.
- 1 year ago the first newsletter was sent to people in this area, a bank account with the money from the newsletter request for the chapter was opened.
- The hope for the meeting is that Roseanne could help those attended to better understand the purpose and work of a chapter and the different areas of service so that our chapter could be more inclusive and as was stated in the last newsletter we have a lot of wonderful things happening and it would be the hope that the chapter would have more people, a name, and people to take up service positions in the chapter.

Sr. Therese asked Roseanne to give an explanation of what it means to be a Chapter. Roseanne passed out handouts and went over the Vision of Contemplative Outreach – Purpose – “The purpose of Contemplative Outreach is to support one another in the process of Divine transformation through the practice of Centering Prayer.” Then she read – Who We Are – “Contemplative Outreach is a spiritual network composed of individuals and small faith communities committed to living the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in everyday life. A commitment to the regular practice of Centering Prayer is the primary expression of belonging to the spiritual network.”

Roseanne then passed out a handout of the “Definition of Terms” for a Chapter, Coordinator, Contact Person, etc. She explained that we would need to meet over the next 6 months about every 4-6 weeks and these people would be part of the steering committee. She suggested that we have another informational meeting with more people from the other areas who want to be part of the chapter and out of that meeting would come volunteers to be on the steering committee. Then after the 6 month period and getting to know each other, picking a new name, etc. we would pick a leader/coordinator and persons on the steering committee would move into the role of servant leaders, etc. There would then be a large meeting, for anyone who has been practicing centering prayer, which would be the Visioning Meeting for the Chapter.

After several discussions of understanding what Roseanne had talked about a date for another meeting was set for Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 9-1pm at the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville. Persons driving long distances are more than welcome to come the night before for 6pm supper and stay over.

Sr. Therese thanked Roseanne for coming and ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Nicole Fedder*