

Contemplative Outreach of Central Pennsylvania

Chapter Meeting at Bethany Retreat Center, Frenchville

Saturday March 21, 2009

Present: Marty Karchner (facilitator), Fr. Phil Billotte, Ruth Ann Madera, Cathy Johnson, Tim Reddington, Carol Baker, Nancy Cord-Baran, Jet Schneider, Patty Niner, Gwen Stimley, Barb Hale, and Nicole Feder.

The meeting opened with a 20 minute Centering Prayer period.

Nicole read the minutes of the last meeting from November 1, 2008.

They were approved with the addition that in the areas of offered service, Nancy serves as a contact person for Contemplative Outreach and also offers Spiritual Direction.

Gwen explained how the Website came together(www.cocp.bethanyretreatcenter.org). Cost was \$250.00. It looks great! If you have any info for it email it to Gwen. Nicole sends Bethany retreats to be posted. There is a maintenance fee for any updates. Shannon will bill Nicole. She keeps it simple so she doesn't have to charge much. We are linked to Bethany Retreat Center's website and that saves too. Gwen sent her some peanut butter cookies.

Newsletter update was given by Gwen. It is free for 60 days with Constant Contact. There is a monthly fee for unlimited mailings. Price is determined by the number of names on the list. It was \$160.00 in advance for the year. She explained how it works; they actually do the mailings but know how to avoid pitfalls, protecting the privacy of the names. They also send a report of emails that are no longer valid and a report on how many and who opened each part. Jet offered to help work on the Newsletter.

Treasury report from Nicole: \$382.52 was received from the first mailing request. \$250.00 paid to web. Deposited \$350.00 from book sales. Current balance is \$ 482.58.

There was some discussion about "What are our expenses?" Do we want to pay to send our Coordinator to the International Conference of Contemplative Outreach? First we need a Coordinator.

Do we have enough information to do a newsletter every other month?

If people have info they want to share about how workshops are going, answering the questions posted on the newsletter, sharing quotes or writings, send to Gwen.

This can help build community among the people in this area who are practicing Centering Prayer.

Gwen will look into it some more.

Nicole will give our web address to Contemplative Outreach

Martha mentioned that all this is good but we need a Coordinator to be a chapter.

We decided to table the newsletter for now.

Martha asked if there is anybody who felt called to be a Coordinator?

We read the definitions of Coordinator, Co-coordinator, and Assistant Coordinator.

We are already doing everything on the list except for # 10 and Nancy, as the Contact Person, had been doing # 10. (#10 is the Year End Activity Report and Survey)

We are in the fortunate position of not having to start from scratch. We have access to Bethany Retreat Center that offers Centering Prayer Retreats regularly as well as Formation Training for Contemplative Outreach Service, we have Commissioned Presenters, Trained Facilitators, and a number of Prayer Groups as well.

Fr. Phil expressed his willingness to be a Co-coordinator. We are looking for someone willing to Co-coordinate with him. We decided to pray about it and meet again as a Steering Committee after a Centering Prayer weekend in the fall, Oct 18th at 1:00 pm.

People can attend the whole weekend before the meeting or just come for the meeting.

We discussed some retreats or workshops that we would like to have including: David Frenette's *Deeper Center, Living Prayer Uniting Centering Prayer and Contemplation* workshop for folks who have been practicing Centering Prayer for a while, Welcoming Prayer and Forgiveness Prayer. The monthly Centering Prayer weekend retreats and the longer Centering Prayer Retreats are greatly appreciated!

Claire will continue to take care of the resource library. Tapes have been donated and she will list and mail.

Father Phil led the closing prayer.

Addendum: At dinner after the meeting there was a discussion with Sr. Theresa and a decision to go ahead with the newsletter after she offered to pay for it.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cord-Baran