

## COCI Meeting - May 2, 2011

Present are: Chris Frantsvog, Donna Hendrick, Margaret Mostek, Jane Tyler, Judy Proksa, Darla Ewalt, Sid Tyler.

Donna - Faith Lutheran group has been doing the Heartfulness videos. Margaret shared that there is another set of the videos for groups to use. Donna - her group is also doing Lectio Divina. Shared 2 books she thought were good: The Meaning of Mary of Magdalene and Dinner with a Perfect Stranger.

Paul shared: Into the Silent Land is a book he has available to share. The author is a prof at Villanova. Everyone talked about how to use books at a Centering Prayer gathering. Read for 10 or 15 minutes and discuss is one way to use a book.

Darla shared that they are starting to meet a second day each week to go through Spiritual Direction by Henri Nouwen with some people who were invited to join this second group.

Co-Coordinator's Report: have been in discussion with Susie Paloma - the Just Faith group. She asked if we would co-host with them to bring in a person from Contemplative Dialogue in October 1 or October 22. Paul and Chris are still available and interested in visiting each Centering Prayer Group.

### Leadership Items:

The Oversight and Service Team (TOST) - handed out an information sheet describing the basic duties.

Servant Leader formation - how do we get that done? Service Teams are a good way to accomplish goals of Contemplative Outreach. Paul and Chris are suggesting that people from the Steering Committee or members of Centering Prayer groups might take on the role of Oversight Service Team members. This could help the group avoid having to reinvent processes as events take place. The goal would be to have one person from the Oversight and Service Team join the committee in charge of each event. Also, these people could provide outreach to the community on behalf of the chapter. This team could do some of the initial legwork to prepare the way for opportunities for Centering Prayer Introduction.

Some names were mentioned as participants on this team: Judy, Darla, possibly Sheila. Anyone interested should call Paul or Chris.

What's next after the "Cloud" 9 month discussion? Jane, Donna and Jan are investigating the ancient mystics as a discussion and that committee is finding resources such as the video "Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer," "Holding the Tension: Power of Paradox," "Following the Mystics through the Narrow Gate," and Journey to Wholeness. Each of these has several videos in a series and could be part of the Sept. - May study. Discussion went on about how to find information about each of the mystics and how to share this. Margaret talked about professors at Creighton who might have information about mystics. Chris suggested finding a book to read about mystics for all participants to share: Lesser Fasts and Feasts, Wisdom Way of Knowing, Wisdom Jesus, Dark Night of the Soul. The committee will meet to put the plan for this Sept. - May series.

Communicating with Prayer Group contacts - email seems to be working. Suggesting putting events in local church bulletins as well.

Facilitator's training: What do folks want? Comment: it was nice to have an informal meeting. People enjoyed the smaller group meeting in a home. Larger ones in a church did bring in a larger group. Possibly smaller CP groups would like to have a trainer come to their group. "Crash a Group" was a suggestion. Could send an email out to all the Centering Prayer Groups and ask people what they want.

Upcoming Events:

**September:** Spiritual Journey Book discussion starts, 2nd Tuesday of month Sept. - May, (Paul will call to reserve room(s) at Plymouth. Sept., 17 Retreat at Sid and Jane's, possibly a Taize, 5-9.

**October:** Contemplative Dialogue

**November 5:** Lectio Intro Workshop (Tim Goldman, Cathy Canard); location TBA

**December 3:** Advent Retreat

**January:** Taize on January 15 at Covenant

**February:** Welcoming Prayer February 18, possibly at First Christian in Ames

**March:** March 17, United in Prayer Day, possibly at St. John's

**April:** Centering Prayer Retreat 16-22 at Newton

**May:** (maybe a visioning day)

Upcoming COCI meetings: 8/1 - food provided; 11/7 - 7p.m at Plymouth (CP at 6:00)

Submitted by Judy Proksa