

A Silent Retreat at the St. Raphaela Retreat Center, Haverford, PA

Friday, Sept. 30 – Monday, Oct. 3, 2011

About the retreat

Come and simply *be* with God and attend to the divine stirrings of the soul.

In these days of fast-paced living, multi-tasking, and continual connectivity, more than ever we need times apart, times of “retirement,” as early Friends used to say, for communion with God and the refreshment of the soul.

While many silent retreats are characterized by solitary prayer and reflection, participants in this retreat will also experience the distinctly Quaker manner of knowing solitude in community.

Along with individual time for prayer, reflection, a walk in nature, and meeting one-on-one with retreat leaders, participants will share meals in silence and bring handwork, reading, journaling, drawing, letter writing to the gathered group in times of “active silence.” In addition there are opportunities for group spiritual reflection and Lectio Divina (sacred reading).

Our fee schedule for this retreat encourages you to register early (space is limited to 25). Thanks to the generosity of the agencies named on the front of this brochure, for this retreat you may claim a scholarship for a significant portion of the fee if the full fee is beyond your means. If you live a distance from Philadelphia, you may consider the cost of travel in estimating your need. We ask that you include a brief explanation to substantiate your scholarship request. No other form is necessary. You may also include a donation to support another’s attendance.

Silence is God’s first language; everything else is a poor translation. In order to hear that language, we must learn to be still and to rest in God.

(Thomas Keating,
Invitation to Love)

About the retreat leaders

Linda Chidsey is a recorded minister in New York Yearly Meeting and former clerk of the yearly meeting. Carolyn Moon is a member of Gwynedd Friends Meeting (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) and a member of the School of the Spirit Ministry (SotS) Board. Together, Linda and Carolyn have for many years been leading silent and contemplative retreats at Powell House, New York Yearly Meeting’s retreat center. These retreats, co-sponsored by Powell House and SotS, continue in January and June of each year.

About SotS’ intention

The School of the Spirit Ministry is discerning a call to offer the opportunity for silent retreat in locations across the country. It is

our desire for people to experience the joy and beauty of a silent retreat in the manner of Friends. As part of this discernment, we are listening for Friends who may have a leading to silent retreat leadership. If you have experienced such a leading, or know someone else who has, please let us know.

For directions to the St. Raphaela Center, visit www.straphaelacenter.org.

For more information about the School of the Spirit Ministry and to sign up for its quarterly e-newsletter, visit www.schoolofthespirit.org.

REGISTRATION FORM

(also available at www.schoolofthespirit.org)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEETING/
CHURCH _____

COST

EARLY-BIRD FEE (by Aug. 31, 2011) \$ 330

REGULAR FEE (after Aug. 31, 2011) add \$ 40

CLAIM A SCHOLARSHIP (*up to \$290*) * subtract \$ _____
(so that you can attend)

PROVIDE A SCHOLARSHIP (to enable another to attend) add \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

CHECK ENCLOSED (minimum \$40) \$ _____

DUE AT RETREAT \$ _____

* *Please attach a brief explanation of your need. You may include the cost of travel when considering your full cost of attendance.*

FOOD OPTIONS (check those that apply)

- I have no special requirements
- Vegetarian (w/eggs and milk products)
- Vegetarian/Vegan (no animal products)
- Gluten-free (no wheat)
- Other (specify):

QUESTIONS: Contact Mike Green at (919) 929-2339 or email him at info@schoolofthespirit.org.

TO REGISTER, make out your check to *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting* (memo to *SotS*) and mail with this form to:

SotS, c/o 1010 Wells St., Durham, NC 27707

A Ministry of Prayer and Learning devoted to the School of the Spirit is dedicated to helping all who wish to be more faithful listeners and responders to the inward work of Christ.

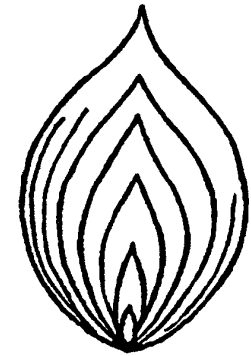
Within the Religious Society of Friends, the traditional meetings of ministers and elders were sometimes referred to as a “school of the Spirit.” In gathered worship Friends learned to discern the movement of the Inward Teacher and test their discernment with one another. This practiced listening extended into every aspect of their lives. Living into this way of being is not easy; we often resist, preferring to ignore God’s promptings into an ever-deepening union. But the still, quiet voice will not be silent, and with discipline and the support of others we can find ourselves becoming more faithful.

The Ministry in its conduct and programming has these Core Characteristics:

- ❖ Is rooted, grounded, and lived out in prayer and expectant waiting upon Divine guidance;
- ❖ Understands our spirituality and spiritual journeys in the context of the ongoing Judeo-Christian story;
- ❖ Combines a clear Christian grounding with the ability to listen and recognize spiritual openings and committed journeys in whatever form they appear. This rare combination helps to lead one into deeper spiritual understanding and brings forth a greater tenderness with each other;
- ❖ Fosters a deeper appreciation of the rhythms of the contemplative life as lived out within a faith community;
- ❖ Strengthens understanding and appreciation of the roots of Quakerism, its theology, practices, and traditions;
- ❖ Enhances the understanding of the life of a faith community grounded in God and the service of members within it, thereby building up the Religious Society of Friends.

A Ministry of
Prayer and Learning devoted to

*the School
of the
Spirit*



***A Silent Retreat
in the manner of Friends***

Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 2011

***at St. Raphaela’s
Haverford, PA***

This retreat is made possible with grants from the Tyson Memorial Fund, the Shoemaker Fund, and the Legacy Granting Group

This ministry serves the Religious Society of Friends throughout North America and is under the care of the Worship and Care Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting