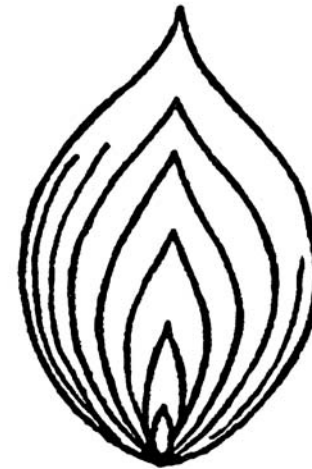




*A Ministry of  
Prayer and Learning  
devoted to*

*the School of the Spirit*



**On Being a  
Spiritual Nurturer**

2009 – 2011

*a program of prayer and study*

A Ministry of the Standing Committee on Worship and Care of  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

School of the Spirit Ministry  
c/o 1306 Hillsborough Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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

BOARD, 2008-2009	Is rooted, grounded, and lived out in prayer and expectant waiting upon Divine guidance.
Linda Chidsey	
Matt Drake, <i>treasurer</i>	Understands our spirituality and spiritual journeys in the context of the ongoing Judeo-Christian story.
Nancy Fennell	
Debbie Humphries	
Katharine Jacobsen	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.
Carolyn Moon	
Michael Wajda, <i>clerk</i>	
CORE TEACHERS	
Michael Green	
Patty Levering	Fosters a deeper appreciation of the rhythms of the contemplative life as lived out within a faith community.
Marcelle Martin	
Laura Melly	
Becky Phipps	Strengthens understanding and appreciation of the roots of Quakerism, its theology, practices, and traditions.
Carole Treadway	
ADMINISTRATOR	
Michael Green	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.

ON BEING A SPIRITUAL NURTURER

*a program of prayer and study*

We invite you to read this prospectus so that you may learn more about the purpose, structure and themes of the Spiritual Nurturer program. We hope it will help you discern whether you are called to the ministry of spiritual nurture and whether you are led to apply to this program. You will find application forms for the program and the *Sandra Cronk Memorial Scholarship Fund* in the center of this prospectus. Please feel free to contact any of the Core Teachers for further information and discussion.

The Core Teachers:

Michael Green  
1306 Hillsborough Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
(919) 929-2339  
[mgreen@mindspring.com](mailto:mgreen@mindspring.com)

Patty Levering  
309 Pinecrest Street  
Davidson, NC 28036  
(704) 892-3996  
[pattylev@bellsouth.net](mailto:pattylev@bellsouth.net)

Carole Treadway  
1301 Alderman Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27408  
(336) 855-5173  
[ctreadway5@earthlink.net](mailto:ctreadway5@earthlink.net)

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS is May 25, 2009**

*All applications will be considered after this date,  
not as they are received.*

◀ [www.quakerinfo.com/sos.shtml](http://www.quakerinfo.com/sos.shtml) ▶

The program ***On Being a Spiritual Nurturer*** invites participants to seek and respond to the guidance, teaching, and activity of the Light of Christ at work in all; to be grounded in the Life and Power of God; and to be more deeply and fully attuned to the Spirit. The program is for persons who feel drawn to a deeper communion with God and the service that might arise. It is for persons who are concerned about the spiritual well-being of their faith community, and it is for persons who are called to the ministry of spiritual nurture. Elements of the program are designed to touch mind, heart, body, and spirit. The practice of prayer is essential.

The ministry of spiritual nurture takes many forms and may change over a lifetime. Past program participants have been drawn to a deeper grounding in Quaker faith and practice so as to sustain a life of service. Others have been nudged toward a more contemplative life with God, recognizing the importance of their prayerful presence in their communities. Others nurture their meetings and churches through teaching, leading retreats or creating small groups; through partaking in one-to-one spiritual companionship, encouraging spiritual gifts in others, or traveling with a concern for other meetings and churches. Your ministry will be uniquely shaped by your gifts, your life situation, and your call.

**OUR GOALS** are that participants will:

- grow spiritually by deepening their understanding and awareness of how God is at work in their lives and by expanding their capacity to love and be compassionate toward others.
- gain a greater understanding of spiritual practices and faith journeys of others, particularly those in the Judeo-Christian and Quaker traditions.
- develop further their gifts for spiritual nurture and discern how these gifts can best be used to serve individuals, meetings, churches, and the wider world.

Beyond these goals and the requirements of the program, it is our hope that participants will be opened to the inward work of Christ and be transformed by it. An opening such as this cannot be a goal or a requirement because it is an act of grace.

While the program is grounded in Quaker faith and practice, its content has applicability to all people of faith.

The program has five components. Together and individually these components are designed to establish a contemplative rhythm that invites the participant into a deeper relationship with God. This rhythm includes the movement between home and the residencies, between times of solitude and with community, and between study and reflection.

The components comprise: the **Residencies** and the **Curriculum** which is presented at the residencies; and between residencies, daily **Spiritual Practice**, meetings with a **Care Committee**, and the **Readings and Projects**.

### 1. RESIDENCIES

All participants attend eight residencies over the two years of the program. Each year begins and closes with a 5-day residency, with two 3-day residencies in the middle of each of the two years. There are a total of 32 residential days. The specific dates of these residencies can be found at the end of this prospectus.

The first day of each residency begins with worship at 4:00 p.m. and the residency closes with lunch at noon. A typical day in a residency follows a rhythm of solitary spiritual practice, corporate worship, teaching, free time and meetings in a *koinonia* or "k" group.

7:30 a.m.	Solitary spiritual practice
8:00	Breakfast
8:45	Corporate worship
10:00	<i>Teaching session</i>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch, followed by free time
2:30	<i>Koinonia groups</i>
5:00	Dinner
6:30	<i>Teaching session</i>

The *koinonia* group, consisting of 5-8 persons, is an opportunity where deeper knowing and sharing occurs, and where each one can practice being church for one another. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20) Under the guidance of a core teacher, each group meets at least twice in each residency as a venue for sharing, reflection, and prayer concerning each *koinonia* member's relationship with God and the way the Spirit is at work in each one's life. Participants remain together in the same group for the program's two years.

Residencies are held at the **AVILA RETREAT CENTER**, just north of Durham, NC, and about 30 minutes from the Raleigh-Durham International Airport. The center is under the care of the Catholic Archdiocese of Raleigh. Each participant is assigned to a single, furnished room. The Avila Retreat Center is fully accessible. Directions and transport possibilities to the center will be sent upon acceptance into the program.

## 2. CURRICULUM

The curriculum that is presented at the residencies interweaves the study of spiritual nurture with its spiritual practice.

### CURRICULUM AS STUDY

Teaching presentations, and the readings related to them, fall generally within the following five areas:

#### Living the Judeo-Christian Narrative

Introduction to Desert, Monastic, and Anabaptist spiritualities as demonstrations of radical faith, discipleship, and covenanting communities, and as revelations of the inward work of Christ.

#### Quaker Spirituality

Reflection on Quaker faith and practice, including Quaker Christology, interpretation of Scripture, the blessed community, and the offices of minister and elder.

#### The Life of Faith

Exploration of the human-divine relationship within the adult spiritual journey with particular focus on opening to the Light, commitment, living in the cross, darkness, love, joy, gifts and ministries.

#### Living With Others as a School of the Spirit

Seeing human relationships as venues for Spirit-led learning and growth, including the dynamics of meeting life, family and single life, vocation, love, loss and grief.

#### Practicing the Presence

Introduction to distinctive Quaker approaches to the spiritual life--corporate worship based on waiting and listening, daily retirement, reading of Scripture, the use of queries, and discernment, as well as varieties of prayer and other spiritual disciplines.

### CURRICULUM AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The spiritual practices of the residencies follow a daily rhythm that draws us together in the presence of the living God and provides a model that can be adapted for our lives at home. They include:

Solitary spiritual discipline at the beginning of each day.

Corporate worship after breakfast.

Daily reading from Scripture during lunch.

Listening and praying for one another in small fellowship (*koinonia*) groups.

Active communal silence and solitary silence in community as part of each five-day residency.

A time each day for rest and recreation as needed to restore and refresh body and spirit.

The following components of the program are undertaken between the residencies.

### 3. SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

We believe in the daily need to set aside a time for stilling the body and mind for prayer and quiet reflection. Your practice may include private prayer, journaling, *lectio divina* or other disciplines. Such practices are not ends in themselves but means to becoming more aware of God's presence and activity in our lives. It can be helpful to reflect on your practice with a spiritual friend, your Care Committee and with your *koinonia* group.

### 4. CARE COMMITTEE

A Care Committee usually comprises members from your meeting or church. This committee provides an essential link between your participation in this program and your home faith community. It provides encouragement, guidance, discernment, and accountability for you, both as a program participant and as a nurturer exploring your ministry in your community. You should plan to meet with this committee monthly. The committee is asked to submit a report to the core staff once each year. We strongly recommend that you establish this committee before the program begins.

### 5. READINGS AND PROJECTS

We approach study as a spiritual practice. Assigned readings will average 100 pages per month. You will also complete four projects: two reflective papers and two research projects. Reflective papers speak to your own growth, understanding, and sense of call as the program progresses. Their form may vary from a traditional paper to journal excerpts, spiritual autobiography, or artistic expression. Research projects explore more deeply an area of spiritual nurture ministry of interest to you. The second research project may take a form other than a written paper, such as a detailed outline for a course you wish to teach, a retreat you wish to lead, or an artistic exhibit.

## TEACHERS

The teaching is undertaken under the guidance of three core teachers. Additionally, a visiting teacher will facilitate one or two teaching sessions at each residency. Also present at each residency is a person-of-presence whose charge is to hold all those present in prayer, being aware of how the Spirit is flowing through the gathering and of how individuals are responding to that flow.

A brief introduction to each of the core teachers follows.

**MICHAEL GREEN** is a member of Chapel Hill (NC) Friends Meeting and of Piedmont Friends Fellowship. He completed the Spiritual Nurturer program in 1997 and joined SOTS as administrator and as a core staff teacher in 2000. Mike is a released Friend with a concern for the nurture and care of family and communal life. He and his wife are leaders in the Couple Enrichment program of Friends General Conference.

**PATTY LEVERING** is a member of Davidson (NC) Friends Meeting. She is a graduate of Earlham School of Religion and completed the Spiritual Nurturer program in May 2006, joining the core staff later that year. She has been involved with FGC, FUM, and Conservative Friends, and is especially interested in deep listening, spiritual disciplines, and Friends' interpretation of the Bible.

**CAROLE TREADWAY** is a member of Friendship Friends Meeting in Greensboro and of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). She completed the Spiritual Nurturer program in 2000 and joined SOTS as a core staff teacher in 2002. Carole is drawn both to personal and meeting spiritual nurture work, as well as to understanding the traditional ways of Friends and how they may be preserved and interpreted today.

**THE FEE** for the two-year program, \$6,100, covers your tuition, room and board for the 32 residential days. The fee also includes a \$400 non-refundable payment that is due on acceptance into the program. The fee does not include the application fee (\$35), books (up to \$200), and your travel to and from the Avila Retreat Center.

If you feel drawn to the program, please do not let the cost keep you from applying. We strongly encourage you to apply for grant support from your monthly meeting or your local church, and your quarterly and yearly meetings. You may also be eligible to apply to other grant sources. Included in this prospectus is a form to apply to our needs-based *Sandra Cronk Memorial Scholarship Fund*. We can also work with you to arrange a payment plan.

**IS THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU?**

If you are not a Quaker, you may be wondering whether you can participate. Although the majority of those in its classes have been Friends, the program has been blessed by participation of those from other faith traditions and we believe that the program will be of benefit to other faith communities.

Applicants to the program should be able to respond affirmatively to the following statements:

- I recognize and have already reflected on my life as a journey with and into God.
- I sense a nudge or call to a ministry of spiritual nurture.
- I am prepared to be taught by the ongoing Judeo-Christian narrative.
- I am a member of a meeting or church and have some knowledge and experience of its faith and practice.
- I have sought clarity in my leading to enter this program with the help of a group that includes members of my meeting or church.
- I am able to make the space and time in my life to undertake the components of this program.
- I am of sufficient maturity and at a place in my life where I can listen to and pray for others.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**February 7, 2009**

*Testing the Waters* Retreat  
at First Friends Meeting, Greensboro, NC

**March 28, 2009**

*Testing the Waters* Retreat  
at Alexandria Meeting, VA

**May 25, 2009**

Application deadline

**June 1, 2009**

Preferred date to receive recommendations and scholarship applications

**July 1, 2009**

Applicants notified of the decisions of the Admissions Committee

**July 15, 2009**

Deadline to receive deposits from invited applicants

**DATES OF THE RESIDENCIES**

YEAR 1

- I. Wed. Sept. 16 – Mon. Sept. 21, 2009
- II. Thurs. Nov. 19 – Sun. Nov. 22, 2009
- III. Thurs. Feb. 11 – Sun. Feb. 14, 2010
- IV. Wed. May 19 – Mon. May 24, 2010

YEAR 2

- V. Wed. Sept. 8 – Mon. Sept. 13, 2010
- VI. Thurs. Nov. 11 – Sun. Nov. 14, 2010
- VII. Thurs. Feb. 10 – Sun. Feb. 13, 2011
- VIII. Wed. May 18 – Mon. May 23, 2011