



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.*

December, 2009

Dear Friend,

As we take time this season to celebrate God's presence in the world as a tiny child two millennia ago, we also want to share with you how God has been and continues to be present in our ministry today. We trust that this letter will remind you of the importance of your support.

With the recent publication by FGC Books of Sandra Cronk's journal and writings under the title "A Lasting Gift" we are reminded that this ministry was created to provide Friends intentional opportunities for study, prayer, and transformation. Today we continue to nurture this call to deepen the life of prayer among Friends and the fruits are poignant and humbling.

In the past year, we have witnessed the completion of the seventh Spiritual Nurturer class, the journey of twenty-two committed friends through the inaugural class of The Way of Ministry (a program co-sponsored with Pendle Hill), and the gathering of twenty-three participants from across the continental U.S. and Alaska to form the eighth Spiritual Nurturer class.

To nurture past participants we sponsored a first Spiritual Renewal Weekend in November. The weekend, led by Dan Snyder on the theme of spiritual restlessness, fed the hunger among Friends and was fully subscribed.

*Dan's whole framework, integrity, inner and outer, gives me much to chew on. It was personally very helpful to me to hear affirmed that restlessness does not mean failure, but points to new growth. The renewal retreat feels as if it is an important piece of the ministry of SOTS. (comment from a participant)*

We plan to hold these weekends once every two years for past participants of all our programs.

Also new in this past year is our quarterly e-newsletter, created as a way of sharing the stories of current and past participants. Their full stories can also be found on a new page of our website, "Gifts of the Spirit" at [www.schoolofthespirit.org](http://www.schoolofthespirit.org). The newsletter is our answer to a call that we have recognized to sustain and nurture those who feel a relationship to this ministry.

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

We are already at work on additional leadings that will spill into 2010:

- supporting a consultation in Seattle for west coast Friends to further discern their leading to develop a spiritual nurturer-like program on the west coast;
- engaging in a search for new teachers for The Way of Ministry program with a desire to start a new class in 2011;
- establishing a second scholarship fund named the “Transformed Lives Fund” initiated by those in the last Spiritual Nurturer class who were led to witness to the life of Louise Harris, a jubilant classmate who died from pancreatic cancer near the end of the two-year program;
- and continuing the silent retreats at Powell House led by Linda Chidsey and Carolyn Moon.

As we continue to live into this significant ministry, we are solid in our commitment, our founding charism, and to our life together as the body of Christ. Love is palpable, and we serve because that love is a grace, not of our own manufacture.

So why should you give financially to this ministry? It is simple. Our spirit is strong and our work requires financial resources. We see and anticipate a growing call on our needs-based scholarship funds. The current Spiritual Nurturer class received more financial aid than any previous class. And the current economy continues to make the program a financial stretch for many. Supporting new endeavors, such as the newsletter, the west coast initiative, spiritual renewal weekends, and any other new program, cannot happen without planning and administration. This also includes the volunteer service of Board members and our need to expand their numbers. We would like to be able to offer travel expenses to those who serve. The enclosed brochure presents our summary budget for 2009-10.

We count on your support. Your prayers are necessary; your financial gift of whatever amount matters. We welcome unrestricted gifts, or gifts given to specific funds, such as the Sandra Cronk Scholarship Fund or the Transformed Lives Fund.

Please return your check in the enclosed envelope. If you wish to give appreciated stock, please contact Michael Green (919.929.2339) for the transfer information.

As stated in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, “The Light shines on in the dark; and the darkness has never quenched it.” We serve as witnesses to that Light.

Blessings in this holiday season and beyond,

Michael Wajda, clerk of Board

Michael Green, administrator

## **The School of the Spirit Ministry**

### **Budget 2009-2010**

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b><i>Income</i></b>                |                        |
| <i>Programs</i>                     | <i>\$72,120</i>        |
| <i>Contributions</i>                | <i>\$20,000</i>        |
| <i>From General Reserve</i>         | <i>\$3,540</i>         |
| <b><i>TOTAL</i></b>                 | <b><i>\$95,660</i></b> |
| <b><i>Expenses</i></b>              |                        |
| <i>Honoraria (staff)</i>            | <i>\$38,650</i>        |
| <i>Facility</i>                     | <i>\$36,770</i>        |
| <i>Travel</i>                       | <i>\$9,990</i>         |
| <i>Scholarships</i>                 | <i>\$7,250</i>         |
| <i>Office (incl. advertising)</i>   | <i>\$3,000</i>         |
| <b><i>TOTAL</i></b>                 | <b><i>\$95,660</i></b> |
| <b><i>Assets (as of 7/1/09)</i></b> |                        |
| <i>General Reserve</i>              | <i>\$27,459</i>        |
| <i>Scholarships</i>                 | <i>\$12,470</i>        |
| <i>Other</i>                        | <i>\$19,998</i>        |
| <b><i>TOTAL</i></b>                 | <b><i>\$59,927</i></b> |