



# The Source

Fall 2011

Newsletter of the Spiritual Life Center

Volume 22 - Number Three

## Meet Our New Pastoral Discernment Leader

*“What must be done at this point in time in response to what the world needs?”*

This quote is the life-guiding question for Margaret Galiardi, OP, the incoming Pastoral Discernment Leader of the Spiritual Life Center. During two hours of conversation one very warm morning in early August, Rosemary Reynolds and Melina Rudman learned how this question, asked prayerfully throughout her adult life, has influenced her spirit, thoughts and actions with her work in environmental justice, spiritual development and radical compassion for all of creation.

Sister Margaret, born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, became a Dominican Sister in 1964, a decision which, she says, “Enabled me to move forward in my own journey and ministry.” Her “curriculum vitae,” or “course of life,” has included many unexpected turns and profound moments. She has done mission work in Guatemala and Iraq; created programs and written books; lived in a contemplative community in forested Northern California and experienced a Vision Quest in Death Valley. Her life-journey is “like a spiral; it moves inward, outward and forward,” and with each turn she discovers new insights about the Holy.

Margaret’s wide range of experience has included working with and assisting a variety of people. As Director of the Intercommunity Center for Justice and Peace in New York, she was involved in issues such as disarmament, human rights in Central America, and justice education. Her service for various institutions in Brooklyn and on Long Island brought her in contact with homeless men and women, as well as lay leadership for the church.

As Director of Ministry for the International Commission for Justice, Peace and Care of Creation, Margaret encountered a “profound life experience.” Hearing that Iraqis felt they had been forgotten by God, she collaborated with other Dominican brothers and sisters to send Dominican delegations to Iraq.

A published author, Margaret has written two books. Her participation in a Native American rite of passage, living for ten days on the land in Death Valley, led to Encountering Mystery in the Wilderness: One woman’s Vision Quest. Her other work, Where the Pure Water Falls: The New Story of the Universe and Christian Faith, explores how we hold the Universe Story in the Christian tradition.

On her journey Margaret has had many fine mentors, but the one who most influenced her was Thomas Berry, who “opened everything up in a way that is so refreshing. His sense of the universe story puts everything in perspective.” She favors the poetry of Denise Levertov, Mary Oliver, Hafiz, Wendell Berry, and Pattiann Rogers and enjoyed the book Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver.

Her leisure time is spent hiking, visiting the ocean, reading, listening to classical music, and watching good movies, such as “Cave of Forgotten Dreams,” “Of Gods and Men,” “The Tree of Life,” and most recently “Midnight in Paris.”



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## Leadership Team

Margaret Galiardi, OP  
*Pastoral Discernment Leader*

Diane Reynolds  
*Administrative & Financial Leader*

Sarah Annis  
*Events & Program Cultivation Leader*

Andrée Grafstein  
*Internship Coordinator*

Rose Petronella  
*Pathways Coordinator*

## Board of Directors

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## Mission

The Spiritual Life Center is a community born of faith, gathered in Love and led by the Spirit to seek oneness with the Mystery that is God.

We are called to tend the Holy in the souls of individuals, groups, and the world by cooperating with God to invite and nurture, equip and sustain, heal and transform, through the ministry of spiritual direction.

## Margaret's Musings...

*The Tree of Life* was one of the summer's most spoken about movies. I seldom read movie reviews as I don't want to spoil my own pristine viewing experience. So, here is my take on a film which I think has everything to do with the Spiritual Life Center. The film is all about La Lucha (the struggle) in the widest sense of that term. It is all about the search for the Divine. But, it is in the old frame — and that's where the Spiritual Life Center comes in!

In some of the earliest dialogue we hear the female lead character say something to the effect that life is all about the struggle between nature and grace. And then later in the film, while holding her baby in her arms she looks up at a blue sky and says to her child, "That's where God lives." For me these were the tell-tale signs of a depiction of the struggle of life in the old frame.

You might be wondering by now what I mean about "the old frame." It is the world-view that says we spend our lives searching for the absent God; it is the world-view which tells us nature and grace are at war; it is the world-view which fosters a split between spirit and flesh, heaven and Earth, and so much more.

We all know that life can be a struggle. Just think back over some of the most outstanding images of this past summer. What stands out for me are the faces of starving children, London burning, gridlock in Washington, and mercurial stock market graphs!

It is the frame or world view in which we hold it all that makes the difference. Life will continue to hold its moments of struggle, and regardless of our world-view, people --yes even children will continue to die. The film-maker casts all this in the widest possible frame in that we are treated to images of the natural world in all its glory. Awe-inspiring images from the Hubble telescope of the early Universe flash before us, as does land mass created through the violent eruptions of volcanoes, and we become privy even to the birth of stars.

For me these fantastic images served to remind me of my fundamental identity as "of nature," as *human* nature to be more precise. The frame is big! The Universe and Earth from which I and all of life emerge are manifestations in form of the formless being of the Divine. All of creation, human and other-than-human, give shape and form the self-emptying love of the Divine One and thus are of inestimable value. All of this provides the frame in which we experience the vicissitudes of life. Life is not a search for the absent God. Life is rather the journey we embark upon coming to fruition in the realization that the all embracing love of the Divine holds our multi-billion year old universe with all that moves within it. Said more simply, the search for the Divine ends up in the realization that Divine has already found us!

Enter the Spiritual Life Center! We exist to "tend the Holy." The work is to accompany one another on this journey, *to awaken that capacity each of us has* to recognize "The Holy" moving in our lives and world despite whatever happens. That makes all the difference. Once you are "in that space" everything is different.

You all know that I am "the new kid on the block." I feel so very blessed to be among you and to share in the outstanding work that has been yours for over a quarter of a century. Thank you for welcoming me into your midst. I look forward to walking the journey with you. Let us rejoice in the presence of the Divine who accompanies us.

~ Margaret Galiardi, OP

## A Note from the President of our Board of Directors

Greetings! I hope you had a relaxing, joyful summer. I was blessed with one of my best summers ever: a wedding in Europe, Connecticut Master Gardener activities, a visit by our son from Japan, and – the “grand finale”! – participation in the selection process of Margaret Galiardi, OP as the Spiritual Life Center’s new Pastoral Discernment Leader. Learn more about her as you read this issue’s interview with Margaret, and please plan to meet her in person at our September 22 reception.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and admiration for the members of our Ad Hoc Selection Committee. We were a diverse group: Sarah Annis, representing the SLC staff; Mary Blume, Spiritual Director and Supervisor with many years of dedicated service to the SLC; Oscar Brockmeyer, representing our Internship program; Bob McNally, who brought decades of history with the SLC, both as Board member and spiritual director; Sara Jane Munshower, the committee President, and I as committee Secretary, representing our Board of Directors. The recruitment process began in March with a careful review of the Center’s evolution to this point and a thoughtful discernment regarding the future direction and fulfillment of our mission. With specific goals and programs defined, we then worked to describe the qualities required of one who would provide the vision, inspiration

and leadership to achieve them. We met with some outstanding candidates, culminating in our selection of Margaret Galiardi in August. Every committee member showed unwavering commitment to our task. Every decision made along the way involved the deepest discernment, the most candid discussion, and the unanimous agreement of the group. A spiritual direction leader from another state recently congratulated me upon our choice of Margaret and warmly commented that Margaret was “a dynamo.” I replied that our Ad Hoc Selection Committee had had the same impression.

Margaret joins us as we are about to embark on our 2011 Annual Appeal. Please accept our gratitude for all of your past support. We are on the threshold of moving forward, and you are an essential participant in that progress. I’ve been told for years that the Spiritual Life Center is “one of Connecticut’s best kept secrets.” Under Margaret’s leadership, with the ongoing support of our benefactors, friends, staff and board, we hope that the SLC won’t be a secret any more. As our Theological Statement says: “We believe that we are invited to cooperate with God in the transformation of ourselves and the world” – a wonderful gift to the greater interfaith community!

*Pamela Morrison-Wolf  
~ Board President*

### Our Apologies.....

**Rev. Eileen Epperson should have been included in the Friends Circle on page 12 of The Source, Volume 22, No.2 in our listing of 2010 Spiritual Life Center Donors.**



Spiritual Life Center staff (L to R): Rose Petronella, Andrée Grafstein, Margaret Galiardi, Sarah Annis, Diane Reynolds

## Celebrating Cathleen Murtha, DW

~ Mary Blume

A song from **Rent** asks the question “How do you measure a life?...In daylights, in miles, in laughter, in strife?...How about love?” On June 9<sup>th</sup> the Spiritual Life Center community gathered for a celebration of Cathy Murtha’s days with us. The weather provided a drumroll of thunder, lightning and a downpour. Gradually the room filled with grateful friends and “family.” Some of those friends who have worked closely with Cathy through these 20 years told stories and shared memories that offered insights into Cathy’s gifts and growth.

Mary Costello began our celebration by sharing the ways in which “Wisdom has been and continues to be an expression and experience of who Cathy is and continues to be with everyone she comes in contact with.” Through her years at the Center Cathy has served as guide, shelter, teacher, dreamer and gatherer. Her ways have been inclusive, playful and welcoming. Fay Lenz, who served as Board Chair when the Center became independent, recalled Cathy’s prayerful leadership of the discernment process and the deep listening and wisdom she brought to it. Geordie Campbell witnessed to Cathy’s vision and her openness to walking one step at a time through the fog into the future. Susan Izard reminded us of Cathy’s passion for the environment and Celtic spirituality. With each anecdote the tapestry of Cathy Murtha’s days at the Center grew in texture and beauty.

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Cathy Murtha, DW and the Wisdom Days certificate



Mary Costello, RSM shares with the gathering of people

# Celebrating Cathy Murtha, DW

*Continued*



On behalf of the community Joanne White and Sarah Annis presented Cathy with a stained glass piece of art, etched with the Center's mission statement which Cathy always kept before us: "a community born of faith, gathered in love and led by the Spirit..." Her words to us assured us of the profound gratitude she has for these years and our trust in her.

As a special honor to Cathy and the

Joanne White presents Cathy Murtha, DW with the stained glass art

charism of the Daughters of Wisdom the annual in-service days will be renamed as Wisdom Days

Thank you Cathy, for the generous measure of yourself that you have given - in love, laughter, tears and so much more. You have been a significant part of our story and of helping the Center to move forward to the next level in fulfilling its mission. May you be blessed as you move forward on your journey of loving service.



Presenter and past president, Geordie Campbell



Above: Sarah Annis, Cathy Murtha, & Diane Reynolds

Right: Presenters from the evening (L to R) Susan Izard, Joanne White, Mary Costello, RSM, Cathy Murtha, Pamela Morrison-Wolf, Fay Lenz and Mary Blume



## Pathways of Spirituality

The Pathways of Spirituality program is about to begin its “Called to Community” Unit. These evening sessions will focus on different aspects of being in a community: in family, in society, in grief and loss, and in faith. This unit reminds us just how important community is in deepening spirituality. When we each share our questions and experiences, no matter how diverse our spiritual traditions are, everyone in the group is enriched, bringing us all deeper into sacred space.

Some of the questions the group will explore in this unit are:

*When have I experienced “spiritual community”?*

*What belief patterns did I inherit from my family that still have authority in my thinking even though I can acknowledge that they are no longer rationally valid?*

*In what ways does American society act as a support or a hindrance to my awareness of the Divine?*

*When and how have I experienced the Divine in a faith community?*

*What makes community ritual effective for me?*

*How would I describe my ideal spiritual community?*

Classes began on September 19. For more information, please contact Rose Petronella at the Spiritual Life Center (860-243-2374).

Pathways website link of the month: <http://www.odysseynetworks.org/video/odyssey-networks/interfaith-relations-traditionalists-vs-modernists>. Rabbi Irwin Kula discusses the challenges of dialogue between traditionalists and “liberals” in our faith traditions. This is a “must-see” video. For more information on Pathways of Spirituality, please visit our website: [www.spiritlifectr.org](http://www.spiritlifectr.org)

## Meet Our New Pastoral Discernment Leader

*Continued*

For those who are keeping score – As a Mets fan, Margaret will not upset the delicate Yankee/Red Sox balance that exists in the Hartford area!

When we asked Margaret what she saw emerging in the world, she replied, “I see a ‘mixed-bag’. Through one set of lenses we are going down a very discouraging and scary road. Politics are divisive; there are terrible famines and natural disasters. Through another lens I see an emerging evolutionary consciousness – an understanding that we are going someplace; the Universe is going someplace.” She continued, “It is our responsibility to impact history and creation in a powerful, positive way. It is our responsibility to use our gifts to influence history.

We are creation unfolding and creation is a manifestation of the self-emptying of the Divine. Love seeks to give itself away. Radical compassion is our call to be the face of the Divine, to be the presence of the Divine in the world and to do our own inner-work. We are called to embody the love and self-giving of God in our persons. That is the journey of a lifetime; knowing that there is a universe within us just as we exist within the universe. This is the point at which we need to pay attention; everyone’s personal journey is connected to the whole.”

As the Spiritual Life Center continues its own unfolding, we are blessed to welcome Margaret Galiardi, OP, to our own Great Work. Although her official date to begin at the Center was September 6, Margaret was already at work meeting with members of our community in August and looking forward to seeing the wider SLC community on September 22, as we come together to greet her and formally introduce her to the Center.

## News from the Internship Class of 2012

After a summer of rest, refreshment and integration, the third semester of the Internship in Spiritual Direction began in mid-September with a picnic supper.

The fall semester includes two units: *Spiritual Foundations* that will explore faith and belief, spirituality in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism, and a substantive focus on Ignatian and Carmelite spirituality; and a unit on *Discernment*, a practice that is core to the Ministry of Spiritual Direction. Several guest presenters will be assisting the Team this semester. In September Eduardo Barrios will be speaking on Mindfulness and Spiritual Direction. In October Suzanne Stier will be presenting Jewish Spirituality, and Aida Mansoor (President of the Muslim Coalition of CT) and Rebecca Minor will address Islamic Spirituality. In December there will be an open internship class (see notice in Programs section of the newsletter) on Group Discernment from a Quaker perspective. Our guest presenter for that evening is Janet Hoffman. In addition to these units, interns will begin the year-long process of praying the Experience Cycle and will be meeting regularly for peer supervision.

Last fall the Internship community was the first to have an Internship website on nicenet.org. This website provided an online method of listing a class schedule with assignments and provided internet links with videos on weekly topics selected from many religious traditions. This website, constructed for us by colleague Joe Colletti, has been well received and has brought a broad interfaith voice to our training program. This summer Joe Colletti and Andree Grafstein have been working together to develop a new and better website for the internship hosted on wordpress.com. All are encouraged to visit a sample of this new website. Log on to <http://sdinternshipsitesample.wordpress.com>. Simply click on Home, Class Schedule, or Internet Resources and Links to see what is available to interns in the current class and enjoy this new resource.

## Applying for the Next Internship Class

A year from now the Center community will be welcoming the 13th class of interns for the Spiritual Direction Internship. A brochure for the Class of 2014 is ready, available at the Center and can be downloaded from the Center's website. Inquiries are already coming in from prospective applicants, many of whom are visiting the Center and meeting a member of the Internship Team as part of their discernment process.

Applicants typically come from all walks of life and have diverse faith, work and ministry experiences. Those who are best prepared have had ongoing monthly spiritual direction for themselves for a year in advance of the Internship. Applicants who are looking for a spiritual director are encouraged to contact the Center for an interview. In addition to a candidate having ongoing spiritual direction, we look for men and women grounded in a faith tradition, faithful to a practice of prayer/meditation, engaged in some form of ministry and sensing a call to the ministry of spiritual direction.

The 2014 Internship program will be supported by an interfaith collection of resources that will be available on our Internship website. (See article above for a sample website)

Thanks in advance to all of our readers for making this unique opportunity known to folks who may be interested in this increasingly interfaith training program in spiritual direction. An application will be available on the Center website in January 2012.

For more information regarding our Internship Program go to [www.spiritlifectr.org](http://www.spiritlifectr.org)



## Spotlight on Board Members

### Melina Rudman

Melina Rudman, who returned to the Board of Directors in 2011, is a Program Director with Leadership Greater Hartford and a practicing Spiritual Director. She has been involved with the Spiritual Life Center for many years as a staff member (began the Pathways of Spirituality program with Cindy Carr), in supervision (both individual and peer) and through many programs, including training as a Supervisor and last year's Enrichment program for experienced directors.

Melina holds a B.A. in Psychology from Bay Path College in Long Meadow, MA; a Certificate in Applied Spirituality from The Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary; a certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Religious Education and Pastoral Services department at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT; and a Certificate in Pastoral Counseling from The Saint Francis Academy. She is a trained facilitator in Enneagram and with the Awakening the Dreamer Symposiums. Melina directed the Servant Leadership School at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry in Hartford for nine years after working 15 years in the corporate world.

Melina lives with her husband (Ed); mother (Theresa) and whichever of her young adult children who need a home at the moment (right now, Megan and Elizabeth) in Rocky Hill. She loves to garden, practice yoga, write, read and deepen her relationship with The Holy.

### Suzanne Stier

Suzanne Stier is President of Stier Associates, a firm that provides advisory services to family held companies, plus public, non-profit and religious organizations. Her specialization is helping companies grow productively through effective organizational development, the management of interpersonal dynamics and senior executive coaching. She brings her expertise in leadership development, succession planning, systems dynamics and strategic management, along with her sensitivity to the emotional and spiritual issues to the individuals and companies with whom she consults.

Dr. Stier's experience spans many disciplines including executive coaching, team building, participative management, and leadership development. In the past 30 years, she has put this extensive knowledge to work for many synagogues, family owned firms, and publicly held organizations.

Suzanne holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior and Social Psychology from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, and has done post-graduate work at the Sloan School of Business at MIT, Yale University and New York University. A member of The Organization Development Network, she is also a fellow, past Chair of the Board and member of National Training Laboratories Institute where she leads a variety of workshops. Dr. Stier is also a member of the Institute of Management Consultants where she has become a Certified Management Consultant. A graduate of the Yedidya Institute where she was certified as a Spiritual Director, she also had a two year internship in Spiritual Direction at the Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut.

Suzanne has taught numerous seminars and courses for business associations and has been a featured speaker at many public and private events. She designed and facilitated a number of leadership programs for The Conservative Movement and for Rabbis, including Eit Ratzon, a program dealing with Rabbinic and organizational transitions. Suzanne has worked with the boards of directors of a number of closely held companies and religious institutions.

Suzanne has been married for 51 years to Dr. Stanley Stier, has four children, three children-in-law and nine exceptional grandchildren.



Be on the  
watch for our  
Annual Appeal  
coming to you  
soon!

“Like” the  
Spiritual Life Center on  
Facebook  
(Check out our home page on  
the SLC website)

In-Service Programs  
are now being called  
Wisdom Days  
(see page 4 for more information)

## You Can Make A Difference!

Did you know that it is possible to increase your income, lower your taxes, build a greater inheritance for your heirs and leave a lasting legacy to the Spiritual Life Center....all at the same time? The 2010 Tax Relief Act has created opportunities to achieve each of these objectives.

The Spiritual Life Center is prepared to assist you (through your attorney or accountant) in setting up the appropriate documents. If you are interested in learning more about how to do this please call the Spiritual Life Center.

It all begins with a conversation -- Call today. (860) 243-2374



### Please Note

Due to CT tax laws,  
the Amazon link is  
no longer available  
on the  
SLC website





# Programs

Fall 2011

Spiritual Life Center \* 303 Tunxis Road \* West Hartford, CT 06107 \* (860) 243-2374 \* [www.spiritlifectr.org](http://www.spiritlifectr.org)



## READING IN FAITH *Traditions*

The first Wednesday of each Month, 11- 1:00 pm  
October 5, November 2, & December 7, 2011  
January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, and May 2, 2012

Spiritual Life Center \*  
Facilitator: Rev. Sara Jane Munshower  
Offering: \$10

Join us for conversation and community as we explore together a variety of faith traditions through the eyes of persons both well-known and, perhaps, little known to us. You are welcome to attend monthly or as you are able. The Anam Cara Room will be available for reading and quiet conversation before and until 2:00 following our discussions. Beverages will be provided. Please bring your book and a bagged lunch. Some books are available for borrowing at the JP Webster Library, First Church, Main Street, West Hartford. [www.jpwlbrary.org](http://www.jpwlbrary.org)

The books that will be discussed are the following:

- October 5: **The Greatest Prayer**, John Dominic Crossan
- November 2: **It's All About God**, Samir Selmanovic
- December 7: **Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life**, Karen Armstrong
- January 4: **Wishin' and Hopin'**, Wally Lamb
- February 8: **The Girl from Foreign**, Sadia Shephard
- March 7: **Silence and Noise: Growing Up Zen in America**, Ivan Richmond
- April 4: **The Wisdom Jesus**, Cynthia Bourgeault
- May 2: **Standing Alone: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam**, Asra Q. Nomani



## This Changing Moment: Welcoming Autumn and our New Pastoral Discernment Leader

Thursday, September 22, 2011, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Spiritual Life Center

Join us as we mark the coming of Autumn and the arrival of the Center's new Pastoral Discernment Leader, Sister Margaret Galiardi. Falling leaves with vibrant color and the fruits of summer in hand call us to grateful and prayer-filled hearts. Through ritual and song, shared reflection and silent prayer we'll "mine" the fullness of this changing moment. Our event will conclude with an opportunity for socialization with each other and a chance to chat with Sr. Margaret. Light refreshments will be provided.





### Awakening the Dreamer

Saturday, October 1, 2011 9-3:00 pm, lunch included

Spiritual Life Center

Facilitators: Elaine Lengyel, Chris Robedee and Melina Rudman

Offering: \$25-35

Where on Earth are we going? And what can we do about it?

The Awakening the Dreamer Symposium is a profound inquiry into a bold vision: to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on Earth. If you are ready to explore what this vision means for you, and the opportunity to create an inspiring future, we invite you to attend. Participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles, cups, napkins, etc.



### Boxes and Birds, Our Annual Tree for the Wadsworth Atheneum's Festival of Trees

October 4, 2011, 11-1:00 pm

Spiritual Life Center

Facilitator: Rev. Sara Jane Munshower

Come join in decorating SLC's tree for the Hartford Wadsworth Atheneum's Festival of Trees. This year our theme is Boxes and Birds. We will be folding small boxes from bird-motif cards and calendars then adding string to convert them to ornaments. Box-folding as a spiritual practice might be a stretch, but it is fun, easier than you might think, and even can be meditative! You are invited to come for as briefly or long as you like.



### Breath by Breath Monthly Meditation Group

Co-Sponsored by Holy Family Retreat Center and the Spiritual Life Center

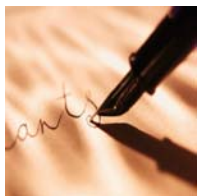
The third Monday of each Month:

October 17, November 21, December 9, 2011, 12-1:00 pm\*

Spiritual Life Center

Facilitators: Brandon Nappi and Ellen Graham

This monthly meditation group will explore how mindfulness practice can enhance our everyday experience of life. Mindfulness is the art of quieting the mind and living in the present moment by gently cultivating inner stillness, attention, and compassion for oneself and others. Our gatherings will provide an opportunity for sitting and walking meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, Eckhart Tolle, and Jon Kabat Zinn along with discussion on mindful living. This time of shared contemplative practice can enhance one's experience of life no matter one's religious backgrounds. People from all religious traditions or no religious tradition are warmly welcomed. \*If you have not attended previously, please arrive at 11:45 for some helpful hints to better your meditation experience.



### Starting Our Own Red Book

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 6-8:00 pm

Spiritual Life Center

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Robert Henderson

Offering: \$25-\$35

Recently, the private journal of C.G.Jung was published. It is called the Red Book. It is a huge remarkable book that contains Jung's dream images, private writings and breathtaking personal art. It is a witness to Jung's rediscovery of his soul. Often he encouraged others to write their own Red Books which we will do at this workshop. Each participant is asked to bring a fresh, special Journal and favorite pen as we create our own Red Books. We will preview and discuss Jung's Red Book as we each do private creating (writing, art, dreams, poems, memories, reflections). Suggestions and instruction will be given.



**Who Do You Say That I Am**  
**Co-Sponsored by First Baptist Church and the Spiritual Life Center**

October 13 & October 20, 2011, 7-9:00 pm

First Baptist Church of West Hartford, 90 North Main Street, West Hartford, CT

Facilitators: Rev. Tom Carr and Andree Grafstein

Offering: Free Will Offering

Join the in the discussion around the question Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" which may really mean, "What in you comes alive in our encounters, in My presence?" To help us in this process, Andree and Tom will share parts of their particular faith journeys, the changing images of Jesus they have experienced through the years and how they experience the Presence of the Holy today. During these two—2 hour sessions, participants will be invited to reflect upon their own sacred-history, their images of God and their spiritual lives have changed, shifted, stagnated, deepened and/or stayed somewhat the same through the years.

We will use the book, *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind—A new Perspective on Christ and His Message*, by Cynthia Bourgeault, as a primary text and explore how Jesus came as a teacher of the path of inner transformation, the One who called us "the light of the world" (Matthew 5), who evokes that light from our deepest and truest selves, sweeping away that which blinds us from seeing with the eyes of the heart. This is an ancient understanding of Jesus, as old as his first followers that has been passed on through the Desert Fathers and Mothers and Christian mystics and sages to our own age.



**Fall: Wisdom Day: INTERPLAY®: Praying with the Body (Formerly In-Service)**

Monday, October 31, 2011, 9:30-3:30 pm

Holy Family Conference Room

Facilitator: Lisa Laing

Offering: \$65-75 includes lunch

InterPlay® is a creative process for personal/community transformation. It uses a system of practices rooted in storytelling, movement, song, and stillness to help you gain access to your own "body wisdom" - what works best for you, what gives you purpose, what makes you fully alive. Participants will engage in an active, creative approach to accessing your physical spirituality, the vessel of the Holy. Dress comfortably for movement. InterPlay® is founded in affirmation and ease. It is accessible to every body, regardless of physical limitation. Bring a favorite, brief holy passage with which we will engage in prayerful movement.



**Radical Love: The Spirituality of Dorothy Day**

Thursday, November 5, 2011, 9:30-4:00 pm

Spiritual Life Center

Facilitator: Debbie Pallatto—Fontaine

Offering: \$50-65 includes lunch

This workshop will provide insight into the personal and public life of Dorothy Day through her autobiography, journals, and articles in *The Catholic Worker*. It will focus on her spirituality and how her faith and values enabled her to respond to God's calling. Dorothy Day not only read and embraced the Gospel; she lived it by immersing herself in the social issues of the day and by responding to "the least of these." Through facilitated discussion, reflection, music and journaling, participants will come away with what it means to follow Jesus' commandment to love one another in their own lives. The legacy of Dorothy's dedication and commitment to discipleship is one that continues to, in her words, "create a new heaven and new earth wherein justice dwelleth." Practical suggestions for integrating spirituality and one's own calling will be offered.



### Taizé Worship Services

Second Sundays of the Month

October 9, November 13, and December 11, 2011, 5:00 pm

First Church of Christ, Congregational, 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT

Offering: Free Will

The Taizé worship service is based on worship created by the Taizé Community in Taizé, France. Co-sponsored by the Spiritual Life Center and First Church of Christ Congregational, the ecumenical Taizé Service is a contemporary, contemplative time of song, silence and prayer. It is a time to center ourselves in the presence of God, to let go of the busy schedules of our lives, and be held in God's tender love and compassion. All are welcome.

### The Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 7:30-8:45 am

The Artists Collective, 1200 Albany Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

Offering: Free Will

This Year's Theme: Peace Prayer: An Art-ful Expression  
Main Speaker: Pamela Morrison-Wolf from the Spiritual Life Center



Come and experience the many creative ways that we pray together. Come and stand with your neighbors and friends from a variety of faith traditions to pray for peace.



### Continuing Education for Spiritual Directors:

Group Discernment Using a Quaker Model

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 6:30-9:30 pm

Spiritual Life Center

Offering: \$25-35

Guest presenter Janet Hoffman, a Quaker from Massachusetts, will be teaching an evening class for the Internship on Group Discernment and the Clearness Committee process. This class is open to spiritual directors who have already completed training in spiritual direction. Only 12 spaces are available, so register early. A completed registration form and payment is needed to hold your space.



### To Register For A Program:

Check it out [www.spiritlifectr.org](http://www.spiritlifectr.org)

Call the Office: (860) 243-2374

Email: [PROGRAMS@SPIRITLIFECTR.ORG](mailto:PROGRAMS@SPIRITLIFECTR.ORG)

OR

Mail Registration and Check to:

Spiritual Life Center  
303 Tunxis Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107