

Pathways Retreat

Rhythms



January 2015



**And suddenly you know:
It's time to start something new
and trust the magic
of new beginnings.**

~Meister Eckhart

Capital Campaign Update

In our last newsletter, the Pathways' board announced our plan to expand the Retreat House. This announcement came after an extended discernment process where we listened for and responded to God's invitation for Pathways to grow. Last month we invited you to join us, and we feel humbled and blessed by your response.

As of January 3, we've received commitments for over \$116,000 for our expansion project! This is nearly 74% of the funds we need before we break ground. We are so grateful for your support.

We still have about six weeks to raise the remaining \$41,000. How can you help? Here are two ideas: First, if you made a donation for 2014, consider making a donation for the 2015 tax year now so that we can put your donation to work on this expansion project.

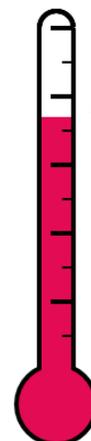
Second, think about people you know who might not be aware of Pathways, but might be interested in our mission. Share your excitement about the project and invite them to consider supporting our expansion. If you'd like, someone from our board would be happy to support your conversation with your friend.

Thanks for your support.

With joy,

Janice Eigsti-Miller, Evan Miller, Rachel Schertz, Melissa Schroeder,
Julie and Bodie Stegelmann, Linda and Steve Thomas ~Board of Directors

Target: \$157,500



\$116,486 (74%)

Introducing Melissa Schroeder, Pathways Associate



My name is Melissa (Missy) Schroeder. I am so blessed and honored to be an associate of Pathways Retreat. My family and I moved to the Goshen area in the summer of 2012 after my husband graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and received a call at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Middlebury, IN. We have three teenage children who are wonderful blessings and keep us on our toes.

I am Spiritual Director and a banking professional at a local bank in town. I received my spiritual direction training from Wellstreams, a three year ecumenical formation and direction program offered through the Spirituality Network of Columbus, OH. My passion is integrating spirituality into everyday life. In our culture we live such full and hectic lives. Everything we hear and see says we need more, we have to do more and be more. I believe we are ENOUGH. We have all we need within us to be whole and complete. As a spiritual director I aspire to create a space and place of safety where the Holy meets us. During the time spent in direction the directee can explore who they are, who God is, and grow to be the wonderful person they were created to be. I believe deep listening, being fully present and God's Spirit creates this space and place during the direction session.

I love people and hearing their stories. I am particularly drawn to clergy and their families. I have intimate experience with the life, struggles and joys that these unique people go through. I have particular interest in shame issues. I have dealt with shame in my own life and know how debilitating it is. I enjoy using many spiritual practices in my daily life and continuing to learn more and more about the God who created me, loves me fully and gives me life.

An Invitation for 2015

Choose a guiding word, phrase, or mantra you would like to live into, dwell with, or embody in 2015.

Write this word or phrase on a piece of paper and then place it over your main doorway.

Throughout the year, whenever you happen to notice the word, let it serve as an intention or as a reminder.

Mystic of the Month Marlene Kropf

In 2015, our "Mystic of the Month" will be people important in the formation of our faith. We begin with Marlene Kropf, spiritual director and retired seminary professor, who has equipped and empowered many people with skills in spiritual direction, discernment, and spiritual formation. (JS & LLT)

In her article, *Discernment: A River Runs Through It*, Marlene says, "At its core, the discipline of discernment is the capacity to recognize where God is and where God is not in our lives.

Consequently, the focus of discernment is not so much on what is right or wrong but rather on the dynamic, moving presence of God's Spirit...

The church's practice of discernment rests on God's identity as a self-revealing God, One who wants to be made known. Not elusive or capricious, the God who created us has not abandoned us but desires to be in an ongoing relationship with us. God loves us passionately and promises over and over again, 'I will be your God; you will be my people...'

Recognizing that we are created in God's image and for fellowship with God, we believe we have an ability to hear and respond to God."

Pathways Retreat is a spiritual retreat center in the city limits of Goshen, Indiana, for rest, reflection and renewal with God.

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