

Pathways Retreat

Rhythms



March 2015

Cleared Land Awaits New Plantings

If you walk along the meditation alcoves and look to the east you will likely wonder, "What happened to all the shrubs and trees?"

These areas are being prepared for new plantings. Last June in a newsletter article, "Stations of Restoration," I described our work of restoring the land at Pathways Retreat by removing non-native, invasive plants to create space for native flora.



As shown with a forestry mower, we are removing White Mulberry, Siberian Elm, Autumn Olive, Asian honeysuckles, Privet and Multiflora Rose from a large area on four acres of new land purchased last year.

This work is made possible with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for habitat restoration.

You will also notice many plants with orange tape. These native shrubs and trees are now released to grow without competing with the invasive plants.



During the next two years we will continue to treat this cleared area before native grasses and flowers are planted for the prairie. In the meantime along the edge of this area, we will plant native dogwoods, redbud, crabapple, serviceberry, hawthorn, hazelnut, and American plum for wildlife and people to enjoy.

This is also a picture for Lent. The land has been cleared, and while it appears barren, new plants await the resurrection power of Spring.

A [plan for this project](#) is on our website. If you want to help plant shrub and tree seedlings in April call me at 202-0048 or email steveforpeace@gmail.com.

--Steve Thomas, land steward and board member

Anticipating Stations of the Cross and Resurrection

A Pathways Retreat Tradition



14 Stations of the Cross

April 1 – 4

The stations are located along the wooded path.
Come anytime from dawn to dusk.
A golf cart is available.
See our [website](#) for more information.



7 Stations of the Resurrection

April 5 – May 23

Introducing Sara VonGunten, Pathways Associate



Spiritual Direction began in my life when I needed something but didn't have any idea what the "something" was. Phyllis Carter, a retired Church of the Brethren pastor, was my first director. She helped me understand the "something" was

a need to connect more deeply with other people. I had just retired from many years of being a public school teacher; my husband had died suddenly several years before; my children were grown and had families of their own. I needed more connections to others.

Eventually, I took Beginning Spiritual Direction at the Anabaptist Seminary in Elkhart (AMBS) and began to give direction. In 2012 I took Advanced Spiritual Direction at AMBS with Dan Schrock. In this course, each student had to make a presentation to the class. In preparing for this presentation, I discovered my real passion for direction—giving direction and having conversations with older persons. A great need at that time of life is having a place to speak about aging and not be judged or patronized. Today, I have directees who are in this age group, and I lead a spiritual direction group consisting of persons close to 90 years old.

I have a vision as an associate at Pathways Retreat to have more groups for persons as they enter into their older years. Leading day or half-day retreats with persons entering this stage of life would be exciting.

I live in Goshen with my husband, Evan Miller. Our extended family includes five adult children, three in-law children and five grandchildren. My volunteer activities, in addition to being an associate at Pathways, include Hospice House, teaching English to adults, providing music for Greencroft worship services and serving on Congregational Care Commission at Eighth Street Mennonite Church where my husband and I are members.

Mystic of the Month: Anne Lamott

"Gorgeous, amazing things come into our lives when we are paying attention: mangoes, grandnieces, Bach, ponds. This happens more often when we have as little expectation as possible. If you say, "Well, that's pretty much what I thought I'd see," you are in trouble. At that point you have to ask yourself why you are even here.... Astonishing material and revelation appear in our lives all the time.

Let it be.

Unto us, so much is given.

We just have to be open for business."

from *Help, Thanks, Wow:
The Three Essential Prayers*

Season of Lent

Our Alleluias are buried out in the snow! Thank you, Steve Thomas, for bearing the cold during our Ash Wednesday service.

We wait with eagerness for their reappearance on Easter.



Throughout the Lenten journey, we invite you to join with us in weekly prayer.

Lectio Divina

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Contemplative Prayer

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:00 a.m.

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

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www.pathwaysretreat.org

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