

Rivendell Community

Fall 2011

Volume 1

365 E 372 Road Dunnegan Missouri 65640

www.rivendellcommunity.org

General Chapter 2011

Our General Chapter meeting was held this year from May 26 through the 30th at the Motherhouse in Dunnegan.

Patty Minx entered her first year of novitiate and Barbi Click, Deb Wheeler and Margy Mattlin took final vows as full Companions.

We were delighted to have our Episcopal Visitor, the Rt Rev. Barry R. Howe and his wife, Mary, with us on Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist and enjoy the afternoon with us.

Members who live "off", that is, not close to a chapter, asked to form an official chapter which would meet on a regular basis electronically. This was enthusiastically approved by all. The new chapter is named Lorien. Donna McNeil was appointed Companion in Charge and Elizabeth Dowell is recording secretary.



Deacon Patty Minx, Bishop Howe, Deacon Margy Mattlin

Retreats at the Motherhouse



The Motherhouse continues to have a full house nearly every weekend. The Contemplative Mandala retreat in August was a great success.

The second weekend of each month we host the seminary alternative school, George Herbert Institute for the Diocese of West Missouri.

We also have many requests from individuals and groups, many of them not Episcopalian, wanting to come for a week or a few days.

Upcoming retreats that we are sponsoring include:

Praying the Psalms, October 28 & 29

The Psalter has been the prayer book/hymnal of the Jewish/Christian people for at least two and a half millennia. The Psalms have furnished the basic daily sustenance of prayer for untold millions of people. They can serve as a powerful link with the mind of Jesus, and with the faithful in all places and times, past and future. How can we deepen our prayer with the Psalms? And how about those which strike us as self-congratulatory and, worse, what do we make of the imprecatory Psalms?

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Peacemakers Youth Ministry at Caritas Village Memphis TN

Motto: I am a Peacemaker. I am loving, kind and gentle. I am patient, faithful, and joyful. I am generous and full of self-control.

The Peacemakers program is in its fourth year at Caritas Village. The curriculum was developed around the work and inspiration of Kelly Guinan's books. The group has grown to an enrollment of 26 children of diverse backgrounds who are working together to "make a difference." This year our theme is: "I Can Make a Difference," using a book of the same title edited by Marian Wright Edleman.

The Peacemakers (K-5th) gather Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3-5pm to learn and practice peacemaking skills through creative expression and interaction. The goals of the program are to: nurture peacemaking, provide nutritious snacks, provide a "safe haven," and provide a place of joy and creativity allowing the children to express themselves artistically while learning their God-given potential to change the world for good.

Peacemaking is nurtured through the emphasis of four themes: **Peace for Me** - helps children discover the wonder and beauty within themselves, where peace begins with a smile, and includes healthy activities to feed body, mind and spirit. **Peace for Us** - explores daily relationships, stressing cooperation, conflict resolution and communication. **Peace for Everyone** - encourages justice and the possibilities for peace within and among groups of diverse people. This year we'll collect pennies for Nets for Life. There are weeks for "I am your neighbor" and "acts of kindness." **Peace for the Planet** - addresses planetary care and appreciation (rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle) including nature walks, clean-up the neighborhood, and planting a garden.

The program is currently funded by the Episcopal Diocese of West TN and Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church through Rivendell Community, and staffed by volunteers from various churches, the community, and student interns from Rhodes College. This year we added senior citizens from Trezevant Manor to read and story tell in the Peace Corner. This is a very mutual ministry. I facilitate and am learning

more than the children about the grace of God and God's presence in each and every person and part of God's creation. The children are the teachers.

Noel Schwartz, Co-Guardian Emmaus Chapter



NAECC Meeting 2011

The annual meeting of the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities (NAECC) was held at Community of Celebration in Aliquippa PA this past September 15-17. Our Companions Lisa Inman and Joanne Rhea attended to represent Rivendell.

A large number of Communities were represented this year and a great deal of progress was made on the set goals, which are to communicate with the House of Bishop's Committee on Religious Life, help new communities with their formation, and provide seekers with information about each Community.

We give our grateful thanks to Community of Celebration for hosting the meeting this year.



The Rivendell Fellowship of St Paul/Minneapolis



The Rivendell Fellowship of St. Paul/Minneapolis, while not yet an official Rivendell chapter, is a spirited group of folks determined to lead a life of prayer and willing to explore the Rivendell Rule of Life. We meet weekly for Morning Prayer and monthly for Evening Prayer and a potluck supper.

Recently we have been using Common Prayer: A Prayer Book for Ordinary Radicals and following their suggested monthly theme. One month we explored the theme of environmentalism and read, Serve God, Save the Planet. Later we read The Wisdom of Stability: Rooting Faith in a Mobile Culture by Jonathon Wilson-Hartgrove.

Through our lively discussions of these books our life of common prayer and the joy of breaking bread together, we are growing closer to one another and to God. Rivendell Companion, The Rev Margy Mattlin, deacon, leads the group. She can be reached at m.mattlin@comcast.net

Hospitality at the Motherhouse

We have on several occasions been host to drivers of Amish who come to this area. This summer, because of the extreme heat, we had a large number of guests who were driving Amish to visit here. They came from as far away as Maine and Delaware. The word had gotten out that we have air-conditioning, comfortable beds, and great hospitality! Each one of these drivers was a delight and we expect to see many of them in the future.

A Reflection By Christine Gilson

I am busy getting settled in Kansas – finding my way around town, learning the mores and culture of the new congregation. But I am lonely, as my husband has gone to visit his mother – and by the time he returns, it will be two weeks since I’ve seen him.

We are used to saying the daily office together, and I dislike saying it by myself; so to enable myself to keep to the Rule, and feel less alone, here is what I’ve done (with more regularity than I might have expected). I say the Offices – all four of them when I can, but especially morning and evening prayer, at the same time that the residents of the Motherhouse are saying them. I picture everyone in their accustomed places, and I put myself in what has become my accustomed place – the corner of the left back pew. Then I say the Office. I have a real sense of being with the community at those times; and I certainly feel less as if I’m doing this “alone.”

The practice has led me to realize that this is one of the benefits of community. Even when we are far apart in physical space, we can be close in prayer and thought. It seems to me that this is a tiny reflection of the Communion of Saints; and I recommend it to all the Companions, novices, postulants, and friends.

*The road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet.
And whither then? I cannot say.*

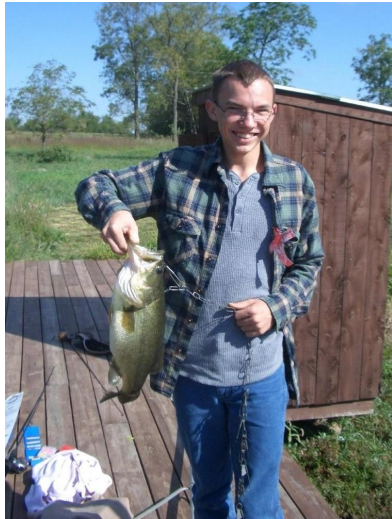
So sang Bilbo as he left Bag End and headed to Rivendell.

May all our roads be pursued with eager feet, trusting in God’s grace and purpose for us!

Youth Retreat

The Motherhouse hosted a youth group retreat from St. John's Episcopal Church in Springfield MO, September 23-25. Our pond proved to be a great joy as a 5 lb, 18" large mouth bass was brought forth!

Praying the Daily Offices four times a day was a new experience for them, one which they seemed to take a liking to. A great time was had by all!



Blake Roop and his catch

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December 2-3 - "I said to my soul, be still": Advent with T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets"

As the liturgical year reaches its end and beginning, we withdraw into the quiet of the shorter days, sifting memory and hope as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child. Join us for a meditative look at the layers of time in T.S. Eliot's greatest poem, following with him where he sought to welcome "the one Annunciation" and to "kneel where prayer has been valid" in the midst of tumult and uncertainty.

to awaken
in silence
alone
desperate for god
is as answered prayer
Bill Reed, Rivendell Companion

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