



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

North American Newsletter
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<http://ccyouth.homestead.com>

The 2014 Hellenic Odyssey

Megan Young (Melbourne, Australia)

Gillian Schoemaker, a curative Eurythmist at the Beaver Run Camphill Movement Village and the Rev. Julia Polter, a Christian Community priest, conducted a 22 day long Odyssey to Greece.

Conducted as a "group of friends travelling together", the Odyssey began in Athens on June 29 and finished on July 21 in Athens. For those three weeks the group members, who shared a desire to further their understanding of Anthroposophy, travelled together to the ancient



Fellow Travelers Cheryl Alexander and Lynn Stull

sites of the mystery centres in Greece and Turkey. Gillian and Julia were generous in imparting their knowledge on each of these sites and on how the evolution of human consciousness developed and was expressed in sculpture and drama. The communication, governance and man's relationship to the world of the spirit in the ancient societies were also explored.

Several days were spent in Athens where we visited the ancient sites of the Acropolis, including the temples of the Parthenon, the Erechtheion and the Propyleia, the temple of Aphaia on the island of Aigina, and the temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion. The Areopagus, the Hill of Mars, where the Council of Nobles met and from which St. Paul preached his sermon to the "Unknown God", was an easy walk from the

hotel, as was the modern and excellent Acropolis Museum. There was a visit to see the treasures in the National Museum and on one evening we enjoyed an hour long performance of authentic Greek folk dances. Another evening Gillian's friend Anna presented the work of the Study Group for Ancient Dance which gave us a picture of the role of drama in ancient societies.

As the Odyssey progressed, Julia and Gillian gave thoughtful lectures about each site we were to visit. While in Athens, Julia gave an overview of the historical periods in Greece and a picture of the religious and cultural life including themes such as 'Mythologies', depicting certain soul qualities and the exploration of the question: What is a Sanctuary? Gillian's excellent storytelling prepared us on several occasions for the sites to be visited. For example, before we experienced the site of Eleusis, Gillian told us the story of Persephone. An explanation of the temple initiation processes and the emerging consciousness of the human being enhanced the visit. At the sites where it seemed appropriate, Gillian offered eurythmy to the group. This activity we entered into as best we could and, with concentration, it brought us to a greater awareness of the essence of the particular site.



Another day saw the Odyssey continued by bus, travelling north to Kastraki where there are several medieval monasteries perched high on the top of enormous rocks 1,000 feet high. At Meteora there was an opportunity for Julia to speak of the difference between Eastern and Western Christianity. The monasteries and churches contained many icons and frescoes. Further insights on the topic of Asclepios and the healing practices were gained when we visited the small and secluded sanctuary of Amphiarios on the way to Kastraki and later at the extensive healing centre of Epidaurus. Julia included sessions of reflection through small group discussions, e.g. the Jesus prayer "Lord have mercy on me" and, on another occasion, the contemplation of the Delphi Maxims (the often cryptic utterances of the Oracle of Apollo) at Delphi near Mt Parnassus. At the Hosios Loukas Byzantine Monastery and at Corinth, Julia and the group read St. Paul's letter "In Praise of Love." Whilst Julia and Gillian shared their knowledge and understanding of many topics during the Odyssey, that of Eleni, our skilled, energetic, entertaining and very knowledgeable Greek tour guide supported their endeavour. We farewelled Eleni at Epidaurus.

Our stay on Patmos enabled us to visit the chapel built over the grotto where St. John received the Revelation of the Apocalypse and the mighty monastery of St. John in Chora, atop the highest point on Patmos. On this small island, Julia presented insights on the Apocalypse; for example it is a "schooling" book and she suggested we look at what evolves through the chapter rather than to see it from an historical

point of view. She urged us to consider that a moral quality is a foundation of the New Jerusalem.

In Turkey we travelled to Selcuk near ancient Ephesus , the temple of Artemis – the centre of the mysteries of the LOGOS, the Basilica of St. John and Mary's house. Julia explored with us the word LOGOS and suggested that there is the capacity to know the world and that knowing the human being is the greatest expression of the LOGOS.

Later, back in Athens, the group attended the one-man rendition of "Socrates Now", a performance by the Greek American actor Yannis Simonides of the philosopher Socrates' impassioned defence of his life to the Greek Senate.

So ended the 2014 Greek Odyssey. The trip had been planned with a variety of activities, including opportunities to swim and for relaxed and interesting eating experiences, periods of free time and entertainment. It was a very memorable trip, which proved to be stimulating, enlightening and also relaxing and, as billed, "a group of friends traveling together". I will remain grateful for the opportunity to have been part of it

Michaelmas Conference-Workshop in Chicago

The Spirit of America and the Body and Soul of the World

Friday Oct 17- Saturday Oct 18, 2014
2135 W.Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625

Friday evening, 7:00 pm
Rick Spaulding will give the first of three talks: "Columbia and the Development of Capitalism."

Saturday 10:30am: "Uncle Sam and the Development of Americanism".
Saturday 2:30pm: "The Spirit of Non-Violence in the 20th Century and Beyond".

All talks will be followed by discussions focusing on the question: How do we and how can we concretely connect and work with the Guiding Spirits in America? The workshop is a kind of companion piece to the weekend in Washington DC in September with Paul Chapell. (*Waging Peace in Troubled Times: Weekend Workshop with Paul Chappell, Fri, Sept 12, 7:30pm – 9:30pm, Sat Sept 13, 9:30am - 5:30pm at the Christian Community in DC, www.ccgwb.org/*)

For more information contact Richard Dancey,rcdancey@earthlink.net; tel. 773-506-0963



Where There's a Will, There's a Way *Visits to Congregations*

Mary Hirsch (Legacy Coordinator)

This past spring, I visited several congregations to share the tools that I have designed for the Christian Community (Region) and I've had conversations with congregation members about having a will and considering the church in their estate plans. I've felt so welcomed by the various priests and congregation members, and I am pleasantly surprised to see how many people already have taken steps to include the region or local congregation in their will.



Talking about one's estate plans with a stranger isn't easy. It is personal. It requires time and organization and through our discussion, you might grasp the planning it requires. So many people I speak with share how overwhelmed they feel when faced with a lifetime of accumulated assets and taking the steps to properly get their estate in order.

On the other hand, when I sit down with someone who already has a will, all I hear is relief in their voice. Most say that when they finally got started, it wasn't difficult at all. Procrastination was the biggest roadblock; but when a major life change – such as marriage or the birth of a child – prompted them to make a will, it was easier than they thought.

Others reveal the pleasure they experience in including the Christian Community in their estate plans. Perhaps Karen Ladron de Guevara sums it up best: "The Christian Community is the foundation of my life and it resonates completely with my continuous search for beauty in all things. The Christian Community and the creativity that comes into the Act of Consecration of Man is the same thing as art. It's like having a beautiful painting in your life - it heals you."

If you would like to learn more about Legacy or Future gifts to the Region or church, **visit our new "Giving" webpages:**
<http://www.thechristiancommunity.org/giving/>

For a confidential conversation, please feel free to call me at 732.232.5159 or email me at hirschmj@comcast.net. I will be at the Denver congregation on Sunday, September 14; Sacramento on Sunday, September 21; Taconic Berkshire on October 26 and Boston on Sunday, November 2. At each of these 30-minute sessions, you will be given the free Christian Community "Record Book" to help you get your affairs in order.

Seminary Update

Bastiaan Baan

On September 14, 2014 the seminary of The Christian Community in Spring Valley will start with a group of 10 students. Not only students who applied for the first semester will work here, but one of the students, Lisa Hildreth, will enter the last part of the English-speaking priest training. This summer Bastiaan Baan, the director of our seminary



in North America, visited during Australia for month, where he worked with a group of 11 students in a so-called pre-seminary in Sydney. Several of these students will apply in the future in Spring Valley, because they need an English-speaking priest training. In addition he visited several congregations in Australia, where he held conferences and lectures. Visit the website: www.christiancommunityseminary.org

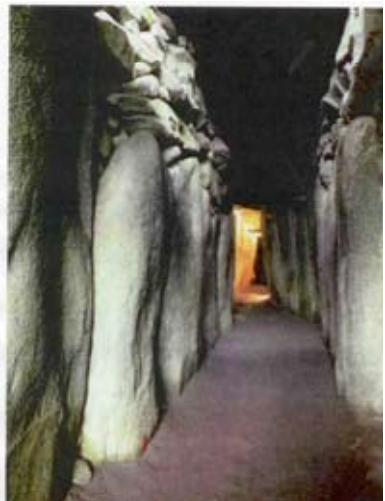
Open Courses at the Seminary

Places of Ancient Initiation: Greece, Germany, Ireland

Open Course offered by the Seminary of the Christian Community in North America with Julia Polter and Bastiaan Baan

Monday, September 22 to Friday, September 26, daily 8:00am to 9:00pm. Sponsored by the Seminary of the Christian Community in North America, 7 Carmen Court, Monsey, NY 10977.

From the dawn of human society, all cultures were inspired and formed by the so-called Mystery Centers, where each developed its own forms of initiation. These centers might be called the "best-kept secrets in antiquity" because, under pain of death, no initiate was permitted to reveal his experiences to those outside the temple. From external history we only know fragments of their rituals, for example from artifacts found in temples and through descriptions in myths and legends.



In this Open Course, we will imaginatively visit some of the old Mystery Centers through the eyes of Julia Polter and Bastiaan Baan. Last summer, after studying their history and spiritual development, Rev. Polter visited several such sites in Greece, as did Rev. Baan over several years, at Externsteine in Germany, Glendalough and Skellig Michael in Ireland, and Monte Gargano in Italy. In the Bible Studies we will explore initiation motifs in the Old and New Testament, and in the workshops we will consider their relevant connections to our time.

Complete Course: \$150. Registration and information: 845-356-0972, a.b.baan@gmail.com

Old and New Initiation, Open Course with Bastiaan Baan, Seminary Director

Saturday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 26



Ninetta Sombart

Note: Dates have been changed because of Thanksgiving on Nov 27

Although the twentieth century brought human consciousness to an unprecedented focus on material phenomena, it was also the moment in which new capacities for esoteric experience began to dawn for many individuals, both spontaneously and through the public availability of disciplined self-training.

In connection with the publication of his new book, *Old and New Mysteries*, (see page 9) Bastiaan Baan will

offer this Open Course to explore what initiation into the spiritual world means in our time; we will seek to identify its manifestations in the lives of our contemporaries and in our own biographies.

Complete course: \$150. Registration and information: 845-356-0972, a.b.baan@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Rev. Craig Wiggins (President of the Regional Board)

2014 Annual Delegates' Meeting in Hillsdale, NY

Thurs November 6 - Sat November 8, 2014

Each board of the local Christian Communities sends one or two delegates to a conference and annual meeting around the election of the members of the Regional Board.

The theme of this year's meeting will be:

COMMUNITY!
Inspiration - Affiliation - Congregation

Where does community come from? How do we use ritual and rhythm to form community? Where do we find inspiration for the ongoing work?

This year there will be a special emphasis on the **Affiliate Communities**, both in the community reports and in the topics of the morning talks. All treasurers are invited to a meeting the afternoon of November 6.

Local boards will receive detailed information about the meeting at the beginning of September. We hope that representatives of all congregations and their affiliates will gather to inspire each other for the continuing work of our movement in North America.



Dear Earth Conference

**October 3 - 5, 2014, Scariff,
County Clare, Ireland**



A conference for people who want to deepen their relationship with the EARTH - in finding a way to live in harmony with the planet we inhabit, further develop as human beings, transforming material through our love and embracing the responsibility we carry as co-creators with the Earth as a living being.

Cost for the full weekend is Euro 150 per person, which includes all scheduled events Friday to Sunday, workshop of choice, 3 meals and all coffee breaks. The food is organic, locally grown and fresh. Meals will be wheat free, cow dairy free and don't contain refined sugar.

Young people are strongly encouraged to attend. We are offering a number of working tickets for people under 30 years old - where they can be helpers at the conference and still take part. Young people interested should contact dearearthconference@gmail.com

<http://www.dear-earth-conference.weebly.com>

InPower

Abigail Dancey

The weeks following an event can feel either like I'm soaring, mourning, or some combination of the two. I experienced neither after InPower. I have felt in myself and those friends around me, a serenity, calm strength, and joy. The conference seems to reverberate in the way the world appears to me now. The possibility of approaching our lives out of hope and confidence has left the trees shining and the future possible.



A group of people can take something on in a week spent with one another, and this particular group of eighty fresh and earnest people took responsibility for something much larger than their own lives. The capacities bursting from each room we inhabited promised that we are as brave as the world needs us to be.

Feeling supported by those next to us, led by those in front of us, and

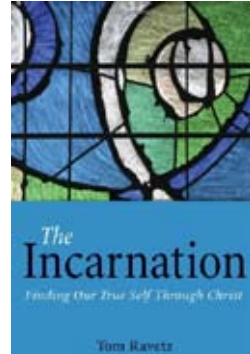
nudged by those behind us, we found ways to discover something new within ourselves- maybe something scary and needing of attention. An ability to face ourselves clearly and with love enabled the possibility to approach the world's struggles with an equal clarity and abounding love. We desired an introduction to moral development in order to accomplish transformational work in the world. We honestly tried to do that, and we watched it happen, and I believe we created something we could call goodness, within us and around us.

New Publications

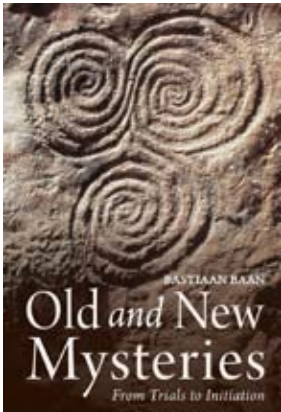
Rev. Tom Ravetz has published a new book titled ***The Incarnation, Finding Our True Self through Christ.***

The "Incarnation"—God becoming human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth—is a central mystery of Christianity. This inspiring book examines the theology of the Incarnation, and traces the history of human thinking about it.

Rev. Tom Ravetz discusses Rudolf Steiner's unique insights into the Incarnation and shows how the process of incarnation is reflected in each one of us and summed up by the well-known phrase from Galatians, "Not I, but Christ in me." This readable book explores the difference that the Incarnation can make in our own lives today. It can be ordered from www.Steinerbooks.org.



Bastiaan Baan, whose book *The Lord of the Elements* appeared last year, has published a new book, titled ***Old and New Mysteries, From Trials to Initiation.*** There is great contemporary interest in the ancient mystery centers, such as prehistoric caves, the pyramids of Egypt, Newgrange in Ireland, and the Externsteine in Germany. The trials and rites that took place there were for a chosen few and are vividly described in this book—from the trials of fire and water to the three-day near-death sleep.



The author suggests that modern-day initiation, however, has a substantially different character. Whereas a "hierophant"—or guide—was needed in ancient times to navigate an inner trial, today it is life itself that brings us the trials we need, which can lead to deeper experiences of the spirit.

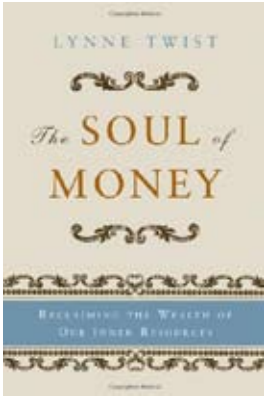
From the contents: What is Initiation? The Mithras Mysteries and Michael; The Egyptian Mysteries; Initiation in the Old Testament and in the New

Testament; Christian Initiation: the Raising of Lazarus; Initiation in Early Christianity; Celtic Initiation; the Path through the Elements; The Trial by Fire, Air, Water, Earth; Initiation in the Twentieth Century; The Encounter with Evil; The Cross on the Path toward Initiation; Patience: the Ultimate Trial; Anthroposophy and the Christian Community and What About Everyone Else? Also available from www.Steinerbooks.org.

The Relationship Between Money and Values

Mary Hirsch

The Soul of Money, written by Lynne Twist, is an examination of the soul and how it is influenced by our relationship with money – getting it, using it, giving it, or avoiding it all together. I was relieved to read this book at a time when I am examining my own connection to money. Twist’s book takes us on a journey of discovering a new freedom when we bravely examine our relationship with money, leading us to deeper understanding. *The Soul of Money* led me to appreciate the transformational quality of money. Once aware of our attitudes towards money, changing them can transform the way we engage in the world’s most complex problems.



Lynne Twist gives her insights into the consequences that our attitudes toward money can have, which she learned over decades of work that she’s done to help end world hunger, empower women, and save the rainforest. Through her experiences, she discovered a striking commonality across cultures regarding our relationship with money. In each culture, Twist observes the powerful grip and expansive effect that money has on our lives, the wounds and hardship that it can impose, and the immense healing power that even the smallest amount of money can have when used to express our humanity and our highest ideals and values.

First, Twist calls on us to be aware that everything we do with money has side effects. Every choice we make and action we take influences people around the world. This interconnectivity of human action is central to understanding our relationship with money. She addresses assumptions we make about competition and the oft-accepted mantra that “more is better.” She dispels this myth, arguing convincingly that through collaboration and community, we can bring about real change and close the gap between those with resources and those without.

There is a moral imperative at the heart of *The Soul of Money*. Twist writes, “When hungry children cry for food, they cry out not as Bangladeshis, or Italians, or children from the other side of town. They cry

out as human beings, and it is at that level of our humanity that we need to respond.”

Twist explores inequity by showing that every human, no matter how rich or poor, working alone or in collaboration with others, can recognize the abundance we have on the earth when we align money with “our most deeply held values, commitments, and ideals” with a concern for “the well-being of the people we love, ourselves, and the world in which we live.” (p.11) When we share and collaborate, it benefits all.

Central to the book is an emphasis on spiritual wealth serving as the means to heal our ills. It goes beyond simplifying expenditures, living on a budget, or engaging in financial planning. Helping each person to reach their full potential enables individuals to act as agents of change rather than being dependent on welfare. I found this book to be a refreshing and enlightening perspective on how each of us has the ability to make global changes simply by changing how we use and view money. Realigning our relationship with money enables us to live a life of integrity consistent with our deepest core values.

The Soul of Money encourages us to explore our feelings about money and to discover how it can be a source of joy as one gets into its “flow” rather than feeling the need to acquire and hoard it. It’s about living joyfully in our relationship with money and learning to embrace that flow and deliver a widespread transformation in all aspects of our lives.

Christian Community Blogs

The priests in The Christian Community in the Washington DC/Baltimore area have started a **new blog**, “The Reflecting Pool”. Contemplations appear every couple of weeks. Recent titles: “Coming to Ourselves”, “A Future World is Growing Within Us” and “Water and Soul.”



To follow (subscribe) go to <http://religiousrenewalindc.wordpress.com/> and click on the Follow Tab at the bottom of the page. Or click on the bottom of the community’s DC web site homepage at <http://www.ccgwb.org/>

Rev Cynthia Hindes in Los Angeles also has a **weekly blog**, “Christian Community Homilies”, at <http://cynthiahindes.blogspot.com>. You can sign up to receive posts by email.

There are also **blogposts on our website**, www.thechristiancommunity.org/blog.

Midwest Summer Camp

Richard Dancey



The Midwest Summer Camp incarnated intensely and joyfully without serious mishap: 60 children, over 100 with staff. No one needed to go to the emergency room. No one got seriously ill. Most exciting catastrophe: a junior kitchen staff member stepping into a hornet's nest in an all-camp capture-the-flag (7 stings). That, in itself, is cause for celebration. Angels must get paid triple-overtime for camp duty and they earn every

Golden-Glory, or whatever is the heavenly counterpart to hard-earned cash (as above - so below).

It was a wonder-full camp. Our theme was "Water" and it rained solid the night before the campers arrived and the night after they left. In between we had great weather; highs in the low 80s. Once more the weather gods cooperated and coordinated with our schedule with the characteristic precision.

Mysteriously, from the east coast, a new gnome arrived: Tonsy Rumpeltina, with special training in evaluating counselors' tents. Needless to say, we have never had such tidy counselors' quarters. Tonsy had just come from the Amazon which was another excellent sign--the evening story was set in the Amazon. Such little spiritual hints and coincidences are so encouraging. The angels, and maybe even some of the higher-ups, really want us to keep working with them on this totally exhausting, completely invigorating enterprise we call Summer Camp.

Midwest Christian Community Children's Camp, August, 2014

Joel Bartlett, Phoenixville, PA

Margo and I did something this summer we've never done - helped staff a camp kitchen to sponsor our Minneapolis grandkids at the Midwest Christian Community camp! Who would have thought cutting vegetables daily for 120 could be so rewarding!

The camp, north of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, is rented from the Boy

Scouts – 330 acres of forests and meadows overlooking the Black River, which runs into the Mississippi about 10 miles south. There are numerous platform tent sites, a large dining/kitchen facility, a swimming pool facility with showers, and several out-buildings for activities ranging from archery to canoeing and other sports, including a trading post (converted into a Chapel by the CC), and a nature center. Campers walk every day between their camp and the main field and buildings. The Christian Community is very lucky to have found such a complete facility in beautiful surroundings.

For two weeks, counselors and staff met at 7:15 am to sing prior to the counselors going to the camp sites to sing the kids awake. Rev. Richard Dancey began with a verse, which Margo and I also had an opportunity to study with him in the afternoon – his own translation of a Steiner verse:

The sphere of the Spirit
Is the soul's true home –
And the human being will surely find it
By walking the path of honest thought,
By choosing as guide the fount of love
Planted in the heart,
And by opening the eye of the soul
To nature's script spread out before him
Throughout the universe
Telling the story of the Spirit
In all that lives and thrives,
And in the silent spaciousness
Of lifeless things
And in the stream of time –
The process of becoming.



After "basic" breakfast (though a couple days we had pancakes and bacon) and a small break, the morning assembly featured a discussion with Rev. Ann Burfeind (co-director and fellow priest with Rev. Dancey in Chicago) on the theme of the camp: Water. Singing with Meg Zinky, another of the directors – mainly rounds (one up to eight parts!) – invited everyone to enliven the space. The songs were sung with great enthusiasm and humor, and they could be heard all over camp later in the dishwashing room or in the woods. Then Richard followed with a story of a large poor family from North Carolina struggling to make ends meet, with all their spirituality, honesty, crises, and humor.

Morning projects followed – each girls' and boys' age group peeling off to work. Then, Margo and I headed to the kitchen to peel and chop fruit or veggies, help with the main meal, and set the lunch tables. After lunch, while the campers went out on adventures, we actually had time to get away, except when there were all-camp events like the Fair, Adventure Day, Capture the Flag, or Craft Day, where all the kids presented what they had been working on.

Back in the kitchen at 4:30 pm to help with another healthy meal, Margo and I worked, and over the course of the two weeks, gathered recipes for a future community back home (Altair EcoVillage). Evening Assembly spotlighted singing as bookends for Ann's serial story of a young English girl coming of age in exotic Brazil. Ann always found a way to leave us hanging on how the scary disaster would be resolved – night after night.

Each evening Margo and I went to the Close of Day ceremony, and on Sundays, the adult and children's services. The camp ended with a big bonfire in the amphitheatre overlooking the Black River – skits, songs, reading stories that campers had concocted using twelve words given to them.

Most campers joyfully reported they wanted to come back next year. The eighth graders have to wait a year, but you can bet some of them will return as project or kitchen assistants, or junior counselors. So many came back this year, there were actually 23 counselors for 60 kids – the smallest ratio of kids to counselors they've ever had. Margo and I may return as well, if we don't think too much about the mouse in our luggage, the mosquitos every night on our walks, tossing and turning on an air mattress when we felt chilled in the tent, or the vast quantities of food and its preparation.

The benefits far outweigh the minor inconveniences! (Believe me, the lack of cell phones and internet was a blessing in disguise). It was a great bonding experience for us with our grandchildren. We ate and slept well, really a total change in our hectic lifestyle at home, knowing our grandkids were enjoying themselves, with their parents getting the first two-week break from parenting since their kids were born.

Sound of Wings – East Coast Camp

Carol Kelly

The sound of wings, the wind in your sails, the expectation of something new and unknown; all of these were part of the east coast Camp theme this year, "Taking Flight."



It was Sunday noon and the meal was on the table. But there was no water or juice! Wait a minute: Here comes a group of young women in white and black with red lipstick, and they are waiting on us! They are the oldest girls and they are – you guessed it – "Flight Attendants." Each group has a name according to the theme and this group

presented themselves in the most creative and helpful way! There were also "Cupid's Arrow", "Flying Squirrels," "Air Force Fun," "Flaming Phoenix" and "Swaggy Ducks," among us.



We were blessed with cool weather, but it was warm enough to swim and canoe in the Susquehanna. The "super moon" rose orange and golden over the trees and the meteor showers came before

the last nights of camp.

It was a new experience to have Oliver and Angela Steinrueck as leaders this year. What a blessing to have two experienced camper/counselor/directors on our team!

The "slip and slide" at the Adventure course, the music during the silent dinner, (two cellos and a viola) the singing, the paintings from nature, "greased pig" (Vaseline on a watermelon) in the pool, and the "treasures of the woods" from sassafras and chicory to skulls, feathers, nests, may apples and elephant ears, soccer and capture the flag, canoeing, hiking, bee stings and evening fires only begin to capture what the camp was. The "being" of camp lives on in our hearts, emerging anew every year and bringing delight and treasure to all who live it, and even to those who just get to hear the stories.

Summer Youth Conference

Patrick Kennedy

*"Lord, grant me that I may always desire more than I can accomplish."
Michelangelo*

The annual Summer Youth Conference took place again this year in Hillsdale, NY from July 21-25. Revs. Patrick Kennedy, Hugh Thornton, and Liza Marcato and two helpers, Meg Zinky and Megan Bennett, were joined by twelve teenagers from the Northeast to explore the theme: What Do I Burn For?



It is hard to really communicate what happens at a youth conference; our intent is to provide a vessel in these few full days in which some-

thing sacred can happen for teenagers, where golden memories are made, where something can catch fire that helps them enter their lives as young adults. Gathering up smartphones at the beginning of the conference was greeted with only minor grumbling, and at the end of the week, many expressed how grateful they were for the break from hourly Facebook updates and the world crashing in in every moment, and the opportunity to just BE together with people and talk about important topics and have adventures and eat and sing and play music and do theater and make t-shirts and even hear sermons and gather together before the altar.



We spoke of fire in its many aspects—the fire that burns up and clears away—as if God is burning away the unfruitful parts of us through our destinies, the fire that warms and moves us to action, the fire that lives between people with a meaningful connection, the fire that transforms, the fire of attention on the spiritual path.

To cool some of this fire, we set out for an adventure at Bash Bish Falls, hiking up a very active river to end at a dramatic waterfall. A rainstorm washed out our first attempt at a campfire, but the fire won out and s'mores were had!

Join us for the Winter Youth Conference January 16-19, 2015!!

