



KOINONIA N.E.W.sletter

Summer 2015

CORE TEAM

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Outreach Coordinators

Vicky Ellias
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FROM OUR CHAIR.... BLUETTE PUCHNER

Dear Koinonia Sisters and Brothers,

I am amazed at how time flies. Five years have passed since I first accepted a position on the Core Committee. As I reflect on those years, my heart overflows with

gratitude for the **gift** that each of you has been to me. I often speak of my Koinonia family and share the unselfish nature of your service, the vibrancy of your faith, your dedication to the retreat program and your openness to the changes which have occurred over the years. Your generosity and encouragement, sharing of hope and strength has enriched my faith journey. Thank you for helping me balance growth and challenge in all aspects of my life.

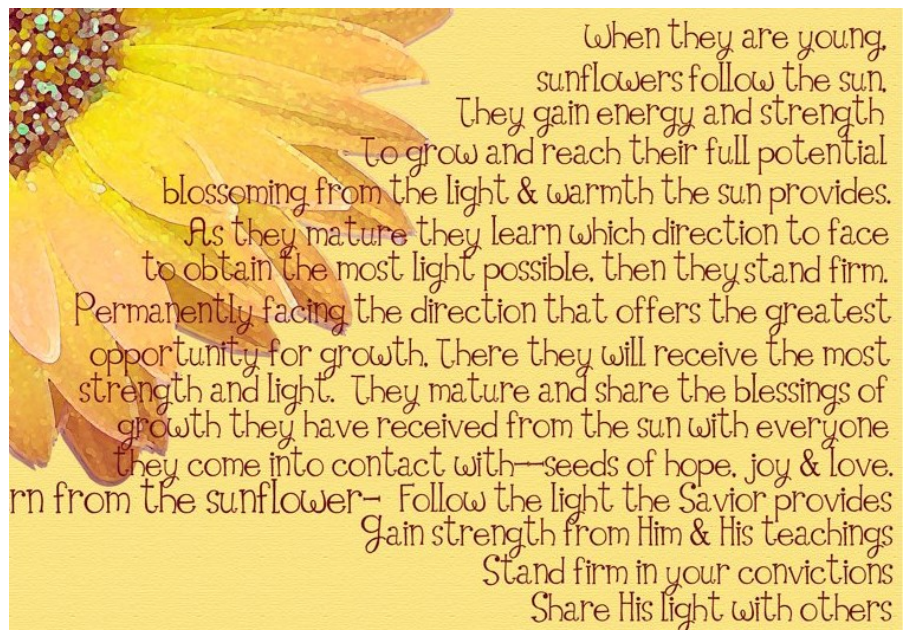
The position as Core Chair is now in the very capable and dedicated hands of Missy Wiener. We've begun the transition and the Koinonia Community is blessed to have Missy as your leader. I know you will support her fully throughout her term.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will continue to stir the Koinonia flame and the love of Christ that is in your hearts. We have been entrusted with a great gift: the gift of faith. May that faith grow ever deeper through prayer, service and fellowship, that we all may "keep our eyes fixed" on Jesus Christ and help others to do the same.

May the Lord bless you abundantly for responding to His grace.

Your Sister in Christ,

Bluette



**Put these Dates
on your Calendar**



Team application forms are available on the Koinonia website:

<http://www.newkoinonia.org/team.html>

Mail to: Lucille Brandner at:

Koinonia Retreat Weekend—

N3102 Hall Dr—Medford, WI 54451

#45 Park Falls Retreat Schedule

- **Team Application** due to *Lucille Brandner* by **Sept. 17, 2015** *list the position you most want to serve in*
- **Planning Meeting— October 3, 2015**
- **Retreat at *St Anthony of Padua*—Oct. 16-18, 2015**



KOINONIA #44 WHEAT SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Alleluia, He is risen! And the “Seasoned Repenting Believers” on the Wheat Team of Koinonia #44 at Phillips were there to witness and provide the devotion and commitment to service that is the hallmark of the Wheatie mission. The effort was reminiscent of the Benedictine motto of “*Ora et labora*”, or prayer and work. Much work was expended in preparing meals, creating the theme and banner for the Team, cleaning, cleaning, cleaning, and ensuring that the Community Room was well supported.

But then, as always, the heart of the mission was prayer. Each presenter was sent out with the blessing of the Holy Spirit. The prayer requests were solemnly offered to our loving God before the Blessed Sacrament, and were taken home for additional appeals to the Father. Anyone suffering a malaise of the soul was lifted up in prayer to our wonderful Triune God.

As #44 at Saint Therese of Lisieux is added to the roster of past N.E.W. Koinonia retreats, we see a new creation that will never be replicated; as the time and the souls involved will never be brought together again. But the work of the faithful Wheaties of #44 have built a lasting testimony to the glory and joy of “Celebrating the Paschal Mystery in Community”.

Michelle Socha
Wheat Spiritual Director

#46 Retreat Schedule (location to be determined)

Team Application due to *Lucille Brandner* by

March 19, 2016

- **Planning Meeting— March , 2016**
- **Retreat at St. Anthony’s — April ,2016**
- **Prayer Gathering— April , 2016**

KOINONIA #44 COMMUNITY ROOM LAY DIRECTORS...

As we reflect on Koinonia #44, we hold each member of the Retreat Team in prayer and thanks for giving so freely of their gifts – love of our Lord was experienced by all through the wisdom, gentle guidance and powerful spontaneous teachings from Deacon Craig and Sharon. Showers of blessings came in the form of Andrea Bleck, Annamarie Novak and Roni Tobias who gave so generously of their musical talents. Meditation sharing touched us deeply – HUGS to Adele, Janene, Missy, Barb, Roni, Vicky and Curt! Among the surprises that occurred on Rise Day was basking in the sun & breeze of the Holy Spirit during N.E.W.'s first outdoor meditation. We wouldn't have survived without our incredible Gophers, Curt and Ron who *anticipated* all of our needs while *participating* in their work with smiling faces. We clearly felt the love and prayers emanating from the Wheat Team, the *Seasoned Repenting Believers*, who not only held us in prayer but provided for our every need including the meals created by our Head Cook, Melanie Olson and her incredibly talented staff. The Reunion committee and musicians helped make the pinning & induction ceremony celebration Saturday evening one to treasure. Thank you, Father Jerry, for the beauty and power of Benediction. How blessed we are to have shared this weekend with all.

We praise and thank our God for the gift of each of you in our lives as we welcome MaryAnn Bader, Mary Lou Dunbar, Dee Herman, Gloria Lyons, Karleen Masephol, Rick and Diane Pinter, Carol Ravet, Ellen Rogers, Mary Zepczyk, Sherman and Mary Zimmerman to our Koinonia family.

Lynn Neeck & Bluette Puchner

Lay Directors, Koinonia #44



KOINONIA #44 WHEAT LAY DIRECTORS...

It was a Glory-ous day when 24 Seasoned Repenting Believers (including three married couples) gathered in friendship, community and love at St. Therese of Lisieux in Phillips, Wisconsin to be Wheat for N.E.W. Koinonia #44. We prayed, laughed, cooked, worked, prayed, practiced, prayed, created...and prayed...and inventoried...and cleaned...and prayed. Our Spiritual Directors did a wonderful job! Our Chapel was filled with prayer, songs, sights, hugs, stories, tears, joy, burden crosses, and heart-felt prayers. We repented on Die Day and Rejoiced on Rise Day. Our very own Maur-etha, along with Seasoned Repenters and green-garbed backup singers, encouraged the new Koinonians and Community Room Team to R-E-P-E-N-T and "Take out your N.A.B." (New American Bible!) After welcoming the new Koinonians to the Koinonia Community, we got down on our knees, knees, knees, knees before The King of Glory in adoration for Benediction. On Go Day we shared our hearts, were served by the Community Room, and celebrated our call to Go into the World. We realized we can't change the whole world, but we can make the Spirit alive in our own homes and communities. We saw and felt many acts of Love throughout the weekend.

We wish to welcome our 1st time Wheaties: Rita Austin, Jeff Austin, and Maureen Knetter! You are now seasoned Wheaties! Thank you to the entire team of Seasoned Repenting Believers for serving as our Lord and Savior, the King of Glory, taught.

Deb Schutte, WTLD and Mary Hackel, WTALD

KOINONIA #44 COMMUNITY ROOM SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS...

"Your Words give Spirit and Life, O' Lord!" How great it is to gather as Christians and reflect on the words of Jesus Christ. The words of Jesus Christ open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and the Spirit allows us to live our life more abundantly. It is within community, "Koinonia", that this great gift is made possible. Koinonia #44 at St Therese of Lisieux in Phillips was a great way to spend a weekend in April! Thank you to Fr. Jerry Hagen for your hospitality and presence at the retreat. Thank you to the great team who willingly, joyfully and sometimes tearfully shared their love of the Lord and their faith experiences. To the new Koinonians, thank you for saying YES to the experience, now go out and let your light shine! It was an awesome weekend, one that allowed us to adapt to our candidates and expand on some Koinonia traditions. We were blessed to be a part of this special weekend.

God bless,

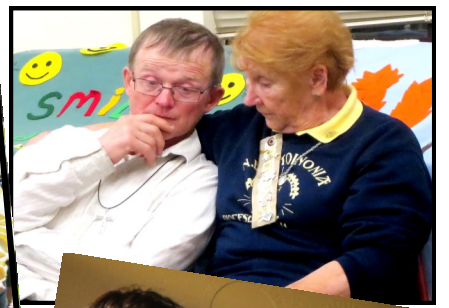
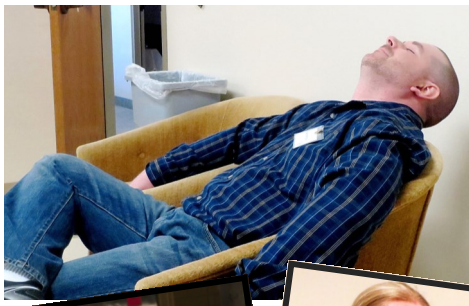
Deacon Craig & Sharon Voldberg

Community Room Spiritual Directors

PS—Helpful hints gleaned from #44:

"Out of courtesy....leave a tail"

When you forget....or don't know the words to a theme song, mouth the word "watermelon" over & over and no one will know...or sing loudly la, la,la....



Community Room



Kneeling: Deacon Craig Voldberg, Sharon Voldberg, Lynn Neeck, Blulette Puchner

Row 1: Sherman Zimmerman, Mary Zimmerman, Karleen Masephol, Janene Ravet, Barb Grzywacz, Adele Archambeault, Mary Lou Dunbar, Dee Herman, Roni Tobias, Missy Wiener, Curt Mitchell

Back row: Gloria Lyons, Annamarie Novak, Rick Pinter, Mary Zepczyk, Ellen Rogers, Diane Pinter, Ron Stine, Andrea Bleck, Carol Ravet, Vicky Elias

Wheat Team

#44 Phillips



*As you walk with Jesus, resting
your head on His heart, you
will learn to know His Word,
His will & His ways.
You will want to obey Him, not
out of forced compliance, but
out of heartfelt connection.
Your joy will abound as you
remain in His love.*

Sue Detweiler

Front: Debbie Schutte, Mary Hackel, Diane Freund, Melanie Olson, Karen Olson, Michelle Socha, Mike McCardle

2nd Row: Margie Novak, Pat Stine, Rosie Neeck, Deb Osborn, RaeAnne Mueller, Lori Hoogland, Jayne Russell, Diane Weber, Maureen Knetter, Bill Polacek, Vicki Huber, Toots Runnheim, Ron Runnheim, Mary Lou Spicer, Deacon Jeff Austin, Rita Austin, Mike Novak



N.E.W. KOINONIA

865 Elk Lake Dr
Phillips, WI 54555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED