

# Rivendell Community

Fall 2012

Volume 2

365 E 372 Road Dunnegan Missouri 65640

[www.RivendellCommunity.org](http://www.RivendellCommunity.org)

417-827-2868



## General Chapter 2012

Annual General Chapter meeting of the Rivendell Community was held at the Motherhouse June 1-4. This year we rented the Dunnegan Community Center for the majority of our meeting and meal times. It gave us lots more elbow room!

Virginia Brown was chosen to be our Guardian for the next three years. Cathy Cox is now the Formation Director. Virginia formed a council of advice that includes Cathy, Susie Danielsson, Christine Gilson, and Noel Schwartz. Together the council will be helping Virginia revise some of our formation materials, as well as other duties as she requests.

The theme this year was "Grace and the Cost of Discipleship." Several reflections were shared by Companions on the theme.

It is always wonderful to have the Companions together and this year was no exception. We played a rousing game of "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" In this case, having taken vows of poverty, the object was to get *rid* of all that money!

## New Guest Cottages

The Motherhouse has two new guest cottages available. At 480 square feet each, they are compact, but homey. Each has two bedrooms, a full bath, and a living room with kitchenette. The large screened-in porches extend the livable space significantly.

They have been named for two of Rivendell's special friends, Teresa of Avila and Dame Julian of Norwich.

The cottages are perfect for individual silent retreats, but are available for any who wish to stay and fully participate in the life of the residential community.

As always, there is no charge for a retreat. However, donations are gratefully accepted.

To schedule a personal retreat call Lisa at 417-827-2868.



Visit our website [www.rivendellcommunity.org](http://www.rivendellcommunity.org).

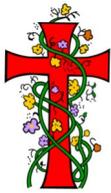
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[www.facebook.com/TheRivendellCommunity](http://www.facebook.com/TheRivendellCommunity).

FaceBook is updated daily, or nearly so.

## The Rivendell Cross

The distinctive Rivendell cross was drawn by Memphis artist Nancy Hall and colored by Susie Danielsson.



This cross symbolizes the Paschal Mystery: The cross itself, of course, represents the passion and sacrificial death of Christ; yet it has become the source and support of new life. Evocative of Easter morning, the dead wood of the cross is flowered, beauty, sweetness, burgeoning life brought forth from the stark symbol and instrument of death.

The Paschal Mystery embraces both Christ's death and resurrection and our participation in it: "All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death...If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him." (Romans 6:3, 8) The "little deaths" with which our life is strewn, whether voluntary and involuntary, can be united with Christ's death and taken up into the Paschal Mystery; in hope and sometimes in experience, they become the source of new life and joy.

Here the Cross appears as a trellis, the sole support of the Vine as it grows heavenward. So with us; to cling to the Cross, letting it uphold us, is the way of life and growth.

*when will your dancing cease  
of twirls toward heaven and then beneath  
those thin solo escapades  
connecting to lonesomeness and to grief  
inside what corridor will you remain  
learning of stillness  
preparing to speak*

*Bill Reed, CRC*

## Drama on Rivendell Pond

*Susie Danielsson*

I usually go to the pond sometime after dinner with stale bread to feed the fish and the snapping turtle. This is my twenty minutes or more of silence every day.

So, there I was throwing out little bits of bread to the fish and big turtle. One of the big catfish was being rather aggressive over the food in front of turtle. Turtle was having none of that, so she bit the fish on his side fin to warn him away from her food. I thought that was rather dramatic to see right under my feet! But then, the catfish didn't give up its aggression. Suddenly there was all sorts of splashing and carrying on in the water. I looked and saw the turtle and catfish locked in combat; it looked like the catfish had my favorite turtle in the grips of its mouth. I got nearly hysterical thinking that the fish was going to hold turtle under water until she couldn't breathe! I grabbed the fish net thinking I might be able to drag them in. Stupid me.

As I got more and more worried, they moved close to the bank. I ran off the dock to the bank where I could see closer and almost reach them - it was too muddy and yucky to even think of wading out there. But, I had a better look at what was actually going on from that vantage point. The catfish did not have the turtle, but the turtle had the catfish! She had it by its lower jaw. I was hearing crunching sounds that made me shiver! OMG! I could see at that point that the catfish had its lower jaw all jagged and ragged. Still it was alive. They kept flailing about in the shallow water and I thought surely the catfish would be killed soon. But, then turtle either got tired of it or needed air. She came up for air and the fish swam away, ragged and tattered. I was worn out!

This has always been a time of quiet and peace for me, going to the pond in the evenings to feed the fish. My equilibrium has just been put on a spinning wheel. WHEW! Nature is awesome and not always nice. I think a pondering of this is in order for me.

## News from the Companions

- In Texas **Elizabeth Dowell** is continuing to make all A's at the Iona School for Ministry while raising a family, having recently given birth to Matthew Rory. The Iona School for Ministry provides the training required by the Diocese of Texas for persons to become bi-vocational priests and deacons.
- **Christine Gilson** celebrated her first full year as rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in El Dorado Kansas and bought a home!
- In St. Louis **Barbi Click and Debbie Wheeler** are actively involved in the parish of St. Paul's in Carondelet.
- **Martha Colville, MD** has taken a new position with Mercy Healthcare in Mountain View, MO as Hospitalist after 11 years at the clinic.
- In Memphis, **Bill Reed** has finished 12 weeks of writing for the Artists Way program. Out of this has come the beginning of a story that he will write. **Noel Schwartz** is making plans to move to Ashville NC just before Christmas. She and Hersh are building a new house there.
- At the Motherhouse, **Lisa Inman** had a poem published in Benedictines Magazine and is now working on a new writing project. She is also the main chicken herder and caregiver. **Susie and Ernst Danielsson** celebrated their 40th anniversary in June. **Virginia Brown** has retired from her priestly ministry at St. Mark's Kimberling City. She is now helping out at St. Alban's in Bolivar, while continuing to teach and be the dean of the George Herbert Institute for Pastoral Studies. She is also making vestments and gluten free communion wafers.
- **Becca Cox** adopted three more children recently after fostering them for a year. God has surely given her the gift of mothering! The Community is so blessed to have all these children to love.

- **Margy Mattlin**, a deacon, and Evelyn Lennon a member of the St. Paul Rivendell Fellowship, also a deacon, planned and held an Immersion Weekend for Deacons in Formation in the Episcopal Church of Minnesota. She writes:

“Storyteller, poet, and author of *My Name is Child of God...Not Those People: A First Hand Look at Poverty*, Julia K. Dinsmore, started the 3-day immersion into the culture of poverty and homelessness in Minneapolis. Ms Dinsmore read from her poetry and shared her story as one who is experiencing a life of generational poverty. She boldly confronted the assumptions many of us have about “those people” and served as a wonderful introduction to what was to follow the rest of the weekend.

On Saturday, our teacher was Marvin Anderson, formerly homeless, now on the paid staff of Warm Space, a ministry of hospitality with the homeless at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral. Marvin shared his personal story of how he transformed his life of homelessness, living under bridges and sleeping on park benches, to being gainfully employed, having a home, and living a life of generosity. He showed us the bridges and park benches, explaining his strategy of staying as invisible as possible to avoid being hassled by the police.

Our small group ate lunch at a downtown Minneapolis church with other people experiencing homelessness. Then we toured Harbor Lights, a homeless shelter run by the Salvation Army. Later we heard from members of Homeless Against Homelessness, an advocacy group in Minneapolis.

St. Jane House, a retreat ministry of the Sisters of the Visitation, in North Minneapolis, an oasis of peace and hospitality in a neighborhood that struggles with poverty and violence, was our home for the weekend. The weekend included time for prayer, Bible reflection, good discussions and laughter over shared meals.”

## Fall Retreats

### **October 26-27 *All Hallows Eve* & other “supernatural thrillers” of Charles Williams**

Though less well known than fellow inklings C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams shared with them a gift for writing fiction which opens perceptions, mind and heart to deeper levels of spiritual reality. A literary critic, playwright, poet and theologian, Williams is perhaps best known for the seven novels which his friend T.S. Eliot described as “supernatural thrillers.” We’ll discuss three of these: *War in Heaven*, *Descent into Hell*, and *All Hallows Eve*. It’s desirable, though not necessary that participants read one or more of these novels prior to the retreat.

### **November 16-17 *The Way of Affirmation: Living in a sacred creation with Hildegard of Bingen and Thomas Traherne***

The “Way of Affirmation,” so characteristic

of the Anglican tradition, invites us to seek God in and through created things...to experience creation itself as “sacramental,” charged with the self-disclosing glory of God. The retreat will explore this way with two remarkable voices rediscovered in recent years: the 12th century abbess, visionary, artist, poet, playwright, composer, preacher, healer, and environmental advocate Hildegard of Bingen and the 17th century Anglican priest, poet and spiritual writer Thomas Traherne.

*Retreats are open to all, but space is limited and reservations are required. To reserve a place in one of these retreats, or to schedule time for a personal retreat, contact Retreat Coordinator Lisa Inman, 417-827-2868, [linman26@gmail.com](mailto:linman26@gmail.com). There is no charge for retreats at Rivendell. Donations are gratefully accepted.*

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