

The Christian Community

North American Newsletter

Volume 198, Nr. 1, Spring 2011
www.thechristiancommunity.org
www.christiancommunityseminary.org
www.facebook.com/thechristiancommunity



Traveling Priest Lecture Tour

One new initiative in the North American Christian Community is a traveling priest lecture series. The purpose of the tour is to reach places where The Christian Community does not yet have a presence, and to contribute some thoughts to the larger cultural conversation. These talks are designed to reach out across the board (i.e. not just for Christian Community/Waldorf or Anthroposophical audiences); we are hopeful that they can be very helpful and thought provocative for many different people, and that these talks can also serve as an outreach for those less familiar with esoteric concepts and ideals. Lark Bergwin-Anderson of the DC/Baltimore congregation is organizing the tour. Rev. Richard Dancey will begin touring the southeastern US, beginning in Washington DC, and continuing on to North Carolina, and Florida. Not yet scheduled as of this writing are Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Lecture topics include:

- The Unassuming God: The Power of Modesty in Science and Religion
- The Anonymous God: Moving from Faith and Words to Inner Attitude and Deeds
- The Challenge of China: America's Task... The Transformation of Work
- The Transubstantiation of Money: The Spiritual Economic Crisis of Our Time
- From Freedom of Religion to Freedom in Religion
- Christ, Karma, Reincarnation: Are Christ, Karma and Reincarnation Compatible?

- Strengthening the Spiritual Life of Children: How do children grow up strong in spirit, soul, and body in this technological culture?

Future tours by other priests on other topics are also being considered for the Pacific Northwest and for Canada. Contact Lark at 240 606 3774 or larkbergwinander@aol.com for information or to offer contacts for including your city in this or in future tours.

Post your comments about the tour on our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/thechristiancommunity>.

A Peek Inside the Beehive

An Update From the Future Initiatives Group
Fiona Gold

The Future Initiatives Group has been a beehive of activity throughout 2010. The current members, Ann Elizabeth Barnes, Fiona Gold, Cindy Hindes, Carol Kelly, Patrick Kennedy, and Oliver Steinrueck, were joined by two new members, Anna Claire Novotny (Spring Valley) and Eileen King (Washington DC), who has agreed to join us at our next meeting. The group has been meeting twice a year, most recently in Los Angeles, CA and Spring Valley, NY, and has had numerous teleconferences during the year. And like bees in the winter that exchange



sing song, much discussion was had, and like bees in the summer, scouts have been flying all over North America searching for nectar. Funny how searching for future directions brings you smack, kerplop into the present. Here is a summary of projects to date. If you have extra energy, ideas and enthusiasm sparked by

any of these projects, please get in touch with anyone on the Future Initiatives Group.

- Organizational Structures

Much energy this year was devoted to clarifying the structure of FIG and how it collaborates, works with and responds to the Synod, the Regional Board, congregations and affiliates. Many thanks to Robbie Forkish who organized us on Google Docs and set up means of discussing topics on-line.

- Public Faces Survey

We wrapped up our first project, which was a survey that was sent to all congregations in North America. This project arose as a response to the question of how easy/difficult is it to find The Christian Community; are we outwardly visible? Do we present an attractive countenance in our larger communities? How are communities using: telephone listings, advertising venues, the Internet, websites, and signage? If you would like a copy of the report you can e-mail cindy.hindes@gmail.com.

- The North American Website

The North American Christian Community website is getting a facelift, thanks to a donation from the Boston congregation. Again, many thanks to Robbie Forkish who started this initiative. Jonah Evans, Markus Knausenberger, and Sanford Miller have been working together with a contracted company Inter-galactico in order to modernize the site. They are working on structural changes, aesthetics and content. It is a huge undertaking and the group had the opportunity to see the first drafts. An exciting venture – more to come! Also check out The Christian Community on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/thechristiancommunity>.

- Community Visits

Almost all the congregations in North America have been visited by at least one member of the Future Initiatives Group. Members will still visit Toronto, Denver, Chicago, New York and Taconic Berkshire. We are collecting people's ideas, dreams and visions of the future of the Christian Community Movement. Stay tuned to hear what is emerging out of the current membership. If you have ideas, please contact us.

- Traveling Priest Lecture Series

Every now and then, an e-mail arrives called TPLS. This stands for Traveling Priest Lecture Series—a very exciting venture funded by the Pamphalon Foundation. Richard Dancey is the first priest to head off on a Southern States lecture tour organized by Lark Bergwin-Anderson of the DC congregation. (Watch for jambalaya recipes and tales of alligators). If anyone would like to write a blog following Richard on his tour throughout the States, please contact us.

- Why not Advertise?

Once the new website is up, The Christian Community regional movement will look at running ads in various journals, peri-

odicals and magazines such as *Lilipoh*, and *Evolving News*, for starters. The ads would contain a link to the website. We are putting together a proposal for funding.

- Music Library

A music sharing project! Thanks to Colleen Shepherd's proposal (a member of the DC congregation), the group set the wheels in motion and Michael Brewer has agreed to help oversee the collecting, transcription and archiving of music together with Colleen. Music for events, festivals and children/youth camps will be shareable between congregations. Perhaps, in the future, there will be the possibility of purchasing camp songbooks on-line. Some individuals have donated to this project. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact a group member.



And deep in the beehive, members of the group are giving great thought to: What is happening in the world? What are people seeking? And we would like to invite you to join us in this exploration.

What are other churches doing out there in the world? What are they offering that gets the most response?

What are the religion and spirituality newsfeeds of the day? What is the spirituality exciting younger people?

Who are the modern American Christian voices out there? Who are Shane Clayborne, Pastor Melissa, Krista Tippett, Parker Palmer and the Homeboy Industries? What is the Soulifest Christian Music Festival?

Write to us: Let us know what you think and feel!

Ann-Elizabeth Barnes, Taconic NY/ Berkshire MA, annelizbarnes@gmail.com,
Carol Kelly, Spring Valley NY, caroltkelly@juno.com,
Cindy Hinds, Los Angeles CA, cindy.hinds@gmail.com, or 10029
Densmore Ave, North Hills, CA, 91343, 818 893 0668
Fiona Gold, Vancouver BC, gofiona@gmail.com,
Oliver Steinrueck, San Francisco CA, osteinrueck@gmail.com,
Patrick Kennedy Washington DC, cckennedy2006@gmail.com,
Anna Claire Novotny, Spring Valley NY, annacnovotny@gmail.com,
Eileen King, Washington DC, Kingeil656@aol.com

The Chicago Seminary is now The North American Seminary of The Christian Community

Gisela Wielki, Co-director



So much has been given since the founding of the seminary in Chicago in the fall of 2003. Students have put their trust in a process of growing and learning that is so challengingly open ended. Guests have come, trusting to find for their lives renewal, new direction.

Generous donors entrusted us with the financial means to acquire a building in Chicago. It has helped us greatly, and so surprisingly quickly, to develop an identity. Over the years, a growing circle of donor friends has helped us to establish and maintain a training that is at once directed towards the earth and the heavens above and the world around us.

All this has laid the foundation for the next chapter in the biography of the seminary. Now the seminary will experience its new growing season, no longer on the 'Third Coast', but on the East Coast in Spring Valley, NY.

The current seminary building is on the market and its proceeds will allow us to break ground or move into an already existing building at our new location.

We look forward to welcoming a new group of students in the fall of 2011. Some are already knocking on the door.

<http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org>

We Are Moving

Richard Dancey, Co-director

There is a priest training in English, in North America! There is a place where people can come and see if ordained priesthood might be a life-path for them. There is a place where people can come and work on the priestly aspect of their own life path. That place, the seminary, has been located in Chicago since 2003 and is now moving to Spring Valley, NY, thirty miles from New York City. It will be ready for a new class in the fall of 2011.



We are a movement for religious renewal and we are on the move. The move will allow us to create a second year of study, moving towards a full training in English. There are eleven priests in six congregations nearby that can support the re-

sources needed to make these moves in the development and unfolding of the seminary.

For all of these reasons—we are on the move, looking and leaning forward into the future. We do not know what all will be happening in the world and in The Christian Community in the coming years. We, like Abraham, are moving into new, uncharted, unknown territory. We will discover what that future brings by moving into it with courage and trust and determination. We are not waiting to see—we are moving forward.

Youth Opportunities

"For this week, we have released our dependence on these things [materialistic "stuff", technology, and media]... Instead, during this week our truly human capacities are filling this space with genuine conversation about our world and our time." - Melissa Barton, East Coast Youth Conference 2008

The youth work on the East Coast is thriving! Over the Christmas break there was a five day 2010 winter youth conference in NYC called 'Alive at the Edge'. You can see the slide show at <http://ccyouth.homestead.com>.

This year young people also participated in a service weekend, and are preparing an Everyman play to be performed in DC, Kimberton



Hills PA and in North Carolina. Also in the works—a 2011 Beach Camping Trip, Memorial Day weekend in Cape Henlopen, DE.

In 2009 there was an Australia Youth Trip. In 2011, a DC Youth Europe and Italy trip is being planned, June 14 -28 2011, and a summer Youth Conference August 22-26, after the summer camp for children. Visit the website above, or contact Rev. Kennedy at cckennedy2006@gmail.com

For information about local youth work and events, contact:

In the Spring Valley & New York City area

Rev. Carol Kelly:

845-426-3144

In the Philadelphia, PA region

Rev. Marcus Knausenberger:

610-710-9294

In the Harlemville area, upstate NY

Rev. Liza Marcato:

413-528-4372

In the Washington-Baltimore area:

Rev. Patrick Kennedy

cckennedy2006@gmail.com

240-505-9960

To support Youth work on the East Coast, send donations to:

East Coast Youth Work in the Christian Community

ATTN: Rev. Patrick Kennedy

4421 Metzert Rd

College Park, MD 20740

Movement in the Movement

Moving mountains? Moving the goalposts? Moving along? Strategic movements?

From time to time priests are relocated, so that talents and local needs find a new creative configuration. The following priests have or soon will be moving:

Gisela Wielki to NY with the seminary; Nora Minassian to Devon PA; Carol Kelly to Washington DC. Oliver Steinrueck (Lenker) and Craig Wiggins will trade coasts late this spring: Oliver to Spring Valley NY and Craig to San Francisco CA.

The Christian Community Midwest Youth Camp Summer 2011

Ann Burfeind

The North American Christian Community is forming its first full two week youth camp in the Midwest this summer! The camp will take place from July 4 through 17, 2011. It is open to



photo by Christine Zinke

high school students entering grades 9-12, who wish to experience living and working and having fun together in community. The camp will take place in a rural setting in the Midwest at Camphill Minnesota.

We will cook our own food and care for our space. I am looking for teepees for us to sleep in! We plan to work on the land half days and have fun with other things the rest of the time. The "fun" would include, swimming, boat trips, hiking, bikes, and fires, of course; singing, art, drama, stories all with other young people from around the country and possibly Germany. The work would include helping the community grow food for the year, bake, cook, tend trees and animals. For four or five days, the whole camp will crawl into vans and take a road trip to the Badlands of South Dakota and see what we can see there; camping, hiking, and more of the same of camp, but on the road!

Camphill Village Minnesota is located on a 500-acre biodynamic farm ten miles north of Sauk Centre in Central Minnesota. People live together family-style in seven different homes. Everyone shares in the responsibilities of life in the community. Visit www.camphillvillage-minnesota.org for view of the camp location.

The link below provides further information of where the camp will be and a description of the village. Watch for price and registration! Soon! Not all the details are set, but keep checking this Facebook page for developments.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/The-Christian-Community-Midwest-Youth-Camp-Summer-2011/174793762560835>

Christian Community East Coast Children's Camp

*Rev. Carol Kelly, camp director with
Rev. Marcus Knausenberger*

On a recent weekend, there was a basketball tournament at the Green Meadow Waldorf school in Chestnut Ridge, NY. Five different schools came together for this event. All of a sudden there were squeals of joy as a circle of friends recognized one another and ran together for hugs and greetings. These were the "camp children" who have known one another during the first weeks of August for many, many summers.



The Christian Community Camp on the East Coast is now in its 39th year. The children of former campers are plentiful. "What *IS* it?" the parents and friends ask, that makes this camp so special? What is it that goes so deep into the children's hearts?

The most concise and truthful answer is this: it is the Creation of Harmonious Community Life, in living action. We can dream all we like about a new and better world, but camp creates it, in a small but impressive way. The days have a rhythm, which compliment and harmonize the human being. They include nutritious, delicious food, chores, stories, artistic work, singing, nature, wild games, sports, laughter, reverence and gratitude.

There are the usual frustrations of living with other people. We strive to be an example of working through difficulties through conversation and patience. There is no one thing, no element that can be singled out as the most important, except this: Behind everything we do, there lives and weaves a consciousness of Christ as the Sun Spirit. This is no exclusive religion, but acknowledges that He belongs to the whole earth and can

enter all human souls, regardless of nation or religion. It is this understanding that can bring about world peace. Our counselors often exclaim: "Why can't life be like camp?" Why indeed? We have to begin somewhere with models that work!

The camp season for 2011 will be from August 4-20th at Camp Echo Trail in Fenton, PA. For more information check the website <http://www.christiancommunitysv.org> or contact Rev. Carol Kelly at caroltkelly@juno.com.

Who is Like God?

The archangel Michael gazes silently at humanity. His name MICHA-EL, means: Who is like God? It is a question directed at us, his silent gaze pregnant with hope.

This fall there will be a conference in Boston:
"Who is like God?" - Living the Question
Regional East Coast Conference in Boston, Michaelmas 2011.
October 7-10.

Please mark the date!

Location: The Christian Community in Boston
366 Washington Street
Brookline Village
MA 02445

While this conference is conceived primarily as a regional East Coast event, the host congregation in Boston looks forward to welcome participants from near and far.

More information will be available in spring through your local congregation and our website,
<http://www.thechristiancommunity.org/boston/index.htm>



International Youth Camp

The Christian Community has created a two week youth camp in Europe for the last 20 years. It is open to young people from ages 16 -24.

From the website for the International Youth Camp of The Christian Community:

"The camp will take place from August 1st till 15th. We will put the application form for the IYCamp 2011 on the website as soon as possible!" For more information, and to register, visit

<http://www.iycamp.com>



Consecration of Church in Odessa

Craig Wiggins

Some twenty years ago a civil engineer from Odessa in the Ukraine named Lyudmila traveled to Moscow on business. In the evening hours one of her colleagues invited her to a lecture about renewing religion, given by a man from Germany. Curious, and encouraged by the freedoms newly blossoming after the collapse of the Soviet Union, she went to the lecture. And after that, she didn't rest until this same man came to Odessa

to speak about this topic and get some religious renewal going in her city. The man, Rev. Dieter Hornemann from Stuttgart, had already been traveling to the (then) Soviet Union for several years and speaks fluent Russian. From then on he traveled regularly to Odessa. More people joined the small group of interested souls. After many



years of meeting in the Waldorf School and growing into a respectable affiliate (of Stuttgart, Germany!) the community was able to purchase a piece of land with a small house on it in a fairly quiet street. Various visitors from Western Europe (including the author with a youth group) visited Odessa in order to help renovate and remodel the house so that it could serve as a

temporary church until the building plans could be carried out. In the fall of 2004, members and priests from several countries got together to lay the foundation stone for the new building. Three priests were sent to work permanently in this huge, Russian-oriented city on the shores of the Black Sea. The complete story of this building process with all its twists and turns could fill a novel; suffice it to say that in the budding democracy Ukraine, with little experience at independently organizing anything, one complication followed another, until finally on October 3, 2010 the consecration of the chapel could take place. And a joyful celebration it was!

Guests from Poland, Russia, Germany, Norway, Georgia, Austria, Belgium, Holland and the US joined the Odessites and the Ukrainians from other cities



for a weekend of festive gatherings, building up to the consecration ceremony on Sunday morning. Having arrived on Thursday, I had plenty of time to walk in and around the building, admiring its simple organic forms, the dignity of the chapel, and the practical arrangement of the other gathering spaces. Much of the interior is not finished and will not be for a while, but if ever a community was ready to take on and ensoul its building, it's the Odessites! Their enthusiasm

got all of us into a festive mood, complemented by thankfulness for the many contributions from a number of countries. On Friday evening the priest of the Odessa congregation, Andrej Ziltsjov, summarized the turbulent history of the whole building project and thanked the many people who played various roles in the building process, from the architect right on to the men still working inside and outside to get the grounds ready for the weekend. Saturday was dedicated to preparing ourselves inwardly for the consecration. Three priests from the West gave contributions about the Michaelic nature of religious work in our times. We practiced a speech choir to accompany the consecration ceremony. In the evening the Lenker for the

East European countries, Jaroslav Rolka, gave a lecture describing the consecration. On Sunday morning all the chairs were put to one side. The visitors from western countries stood along the walls, the Russian-speaking members and friends stood in the middle. Reciting alternatively from the works of Cyril and Methodius and the St. John Prologue, West and East met in the realm of the Word to prepare the chapel for the consecration. Then the Lener with the servers celebrated the consecration, sprinkling consecrated water in the four directions, calling on the elements of earth, air, fire and water to contribute their specific forces to our work, then the same with the incense. One had the impression that a very real presence descended upon the congregation and filled the room with a very positive spirit, a blessing for the work that will be taking place in this chapel and in the whole building. In many ways a pioneer, the Odessa church is the first church built for the



Christian Community in a Slavic speaking country. In the week following the consecration, around forty of us traveled to the Southeast shore of the Crimean peninsula, where The Christian Community owns a café, which doubles as a conference center. There we strove to give a strong impulse to the inner work in the Ukraine by contemplating the Sermon on the Mount. Imagine experiencing the daily Act of Consecration of Man while the breakers of the Black Sea



are gently crashing into the shore fifteen feet away! Working together with people from Ukraine, Russia, Germany, Belgium, Holland and even one lone American, we built a small temporary community which hopes to give an injection to the larger, very diffuse band of people in this huge country who are work-

ing towards renewal of religious life.

The next international conference in the Ukraine will take place in the second or third week of October 2011. As I hope to take part and contribute once again, it would be great if a number of participants from our region would travel along. Besides the conference, there will be an opportunity to visit the city of Odessa, where our church with its active community is located. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Craig Wiggins by telephone: 484-557-8086 or e-mail: craig@wiggins.nl

Report from the Regional Board of The Christian Community

Susan Locey

The Regional Board presented its annual financial report and offered for re-election Bob Heberton (treasurer) and George Riley at the 2010 Annual General Members Meeting during the Delegates Conference. The 2009 financials were accepted, and the contributions for 2011 (based on 2010 income) will continue at the same level. In recognition of the growing needs for the near future, a suggestion was made from the floor to raise the level of contributions, but the delegates confirmed the proposal from the Board to keep it the same this year.

The Delegates Meeting was warmly hosted by the Taconic-Berkshire community November 4-7, 2010. The responsibilities for retired priests and their spouses continue to be upheld, even though the economic situation in the world is so precarious. We seem to be able to go forward in a creative middle realm somewhere between sinking and swimming! But the courage to look forward with confidence is bolstered by the strength and enthusiasm of the congregations of The Christian Community!

The whole conference for delegates, into which the AGM is embedded, was nourishing on the spiritual, social and physical levels. Rev. Michael Brewer gave two wonderful talks on the Threefold Social Order, bringing innovative perspectives from lectures by Karl Koenig in *Man As a Social Being*. With archetypal pictures based on biblical stories, we began to realise how spiritual life looks back to the past (the archetype of Abel), to the Paradise before the Fall; how economic life works to plant seeds for the future (Caine); and how the institution of the

legal sphere may look to the work of Seth, the third son of Adam and Eve, for its founding impulses. Wonder, compassion and conscience are the guiding virtues for the spiritual-cultural, the legal-rights (relationships between people), and the economic life. The Lord's Prayer and the events of Holy Week also offer profound insight into the practise of the Three-fold Social Order.

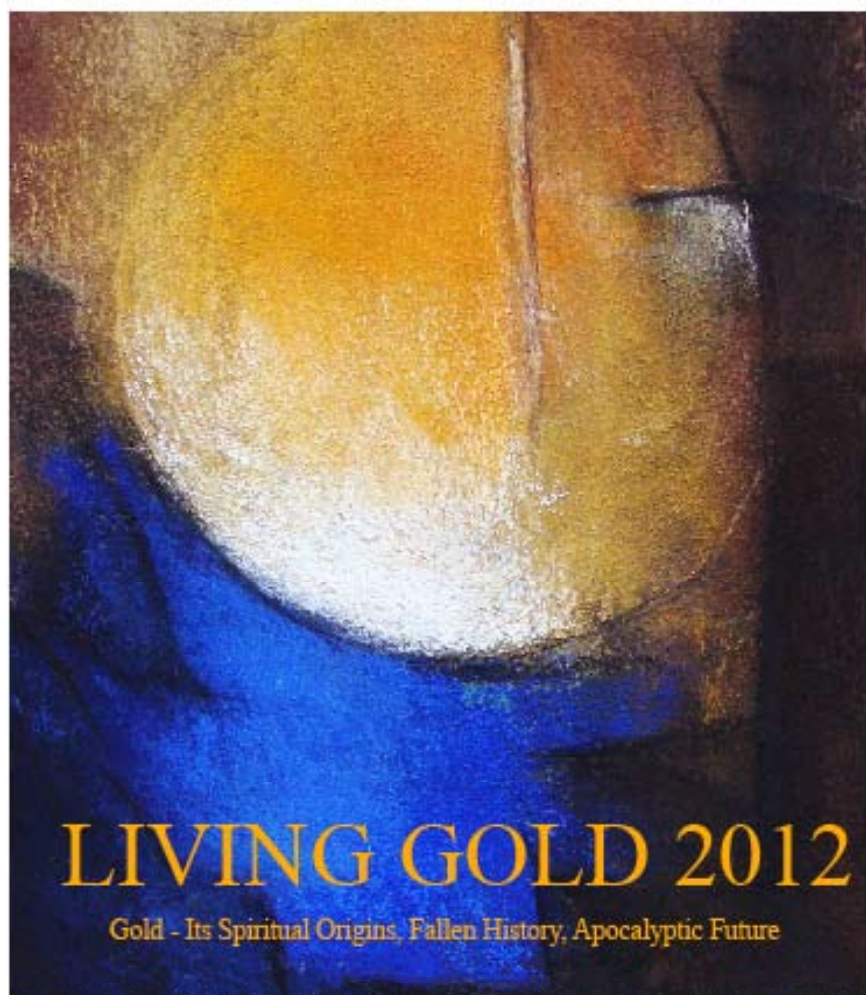


Inspired by the lectures, we could turn with all the more joy to the artistic workshop choices, entering into the Calendar of the Soul through the medium of pastels or enlivenment and joy in movement. A spontaneous evening of improvisation—including individuals from the audience!—brought the added spice of life for an altogether wonderful conference. Participants brought not only news and good will from their congregations, but could return home with renewed energy and insights, enriched by the experience of connecting with real people, moving together within the "Movement for Religious Renewal."

Christian Community Facebook Pages

The Christian Community in North America now has its own Facebook page. The purpose of this page is to provide a place to announce events of regional interest in North America, updates, and inspirational thoughts, poetry and pictures. Visit **<http://www.facebook.com/thechristiancommunity>**. If there are entries you particularly like, be sure to give us a thumbs-up or click 'Like'. And forward us to your friends.

There is also a separate Facebook page for the 2011 Minnesota Youth Camp: **<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/The-Christian-Community-Midwest-Youth-Camp-Summer-2011/174793762560835>**



LIVING GOLD 2012

Gold - Its Spiritual Origins, Fallen History, Apocalyptic Future

A Conference of The Christian Community
Movement for Religious Renewal
For North and South America

July 21 - 29, 2012

At Shawnigan Lake School, Vancouver Island, BC Canada

For further information contact your local priest
or Susan Locey, LivingGold2012@gmail.com