



December 2014

Volume 8, Number 9

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Please feel free to share this newsletter!

Contacts/Email Links

Email
tfeuka@stfrancis.ws

[Registration for Events](#)

Website Links

◆ **SPE website**
www.spe-stfrancis.org



Dear Friend of *Sustaining Pastoral Excellence*:

It has been such an exciting year to serve pastoral leaders and communities of faith through SPE. It warms our hearts to see people's lives deepened spiritually through Sabbath Retreats, Labyrinth Walks, and introduction to various spiritual practices. We are encouraged to see leaders develop for the future of God's church through application of family systems and emotional intelligence to ministry practice, boundary training, Faithwalking, and walking with others through grief and loss. So many people have enjoyed and been inspired by the amazing art exhibitions hosted by the Ecumenical Center for Spirituality and the Arts, one of the ministries of Sustaining Pastoral Excellence.

We are excited about the coming year, and hopeful to continue and expand the impact we are having on renewing faith, equipping leaders, and inspiring creativity of pastoral leaders and churches.

We are so pleased to invite you to join us in this vital work as Advent begins and we approach the end of 2014. Your investment in Sustaining Pastoral Excellence is a gift that keeps on giving, as vital resources are added to the Resource Center and made available even to pastoral leaders in remote settings. Your contributions make it possible for leaders to find renewal in God's presence in this holy place among 95 acres of natural beauty. Your commitment inspires new opportunities for learning and transformation.

It is easy to make a gift today—you can go online www.spe-stfrancis.org or mail it to:

SPE at St. Francis Retreat Center
703 East Main Street
DeWitt, MI 48820

Thank you for your partnership with us in ministering to the ministers, pastoring the

- ◆ **St Francis Retreat Center website**

www.stfrancis.ws

- ◆ **SPE Resource Center**

www.spe-stfrancis.org

pastors, and caring for the care givers, so the grace, love and power of God may transform churches, communities, and the world!

Blessings,

The Rt. Rev'd Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.
Chair, Development Committee SPE

The Rev'd Fred Fritz
Chair, SPE Board of Directors

Please consider a donation to SPE



Unless otherwise noted, all registration is through the office at St. Francis Retreat Center.

Email: information@stfrancis.ws

Phone: 866-669-8321

Mail: St. Francis Retreat Center
703 E. Main Street
DeWitt, MI 48820

Boundary Training

Upcoming Dates

March 12, 2015 (Will be held at the Church of the Master – Troy)

April 30, 2015

September 10, 2015

Especially designed for pastors, lay staff and volunteer leaders, this one-day workshop reviews essential information and strategies for creating and maintaining a safe environment for vital ministry in today's changing world.

This training satisfies the denominational boundary training

requirements for: American Baptist Churches of MI; Christian Reformed church in NA; Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, North/West Lower MI and South East MI Synods; MI Conference of the United Church of Christ; Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbytery of Lake Michigan, Presbytery of Lake Huron and Presbytery of Detroit.

9:15 am – 3:30 pm

Cost: \$75 (includes materials and lunch)

[Brochure with registration form](#)

Prayer Series

January 15, 2014
9 am to 4 pm

Journaling with Fr. Al Wakefield
Contemplation with April Allison
Lunch included



\$60

Registration deadline is January 8, 2015



Click [here](#) to register online.

Click [here](#) for brochure with registration form.

This is open to all who would like to learn different prayer forms.

Save the Date!

Prayer Series

April 16, 2015
9 am to 4 pm

Peace Dance with Esther Kennedy
Eastern Contemplation
with Esther Kennedy
Lunch included



Click [here](#) to register online.

Click [here](#) for brochure with registration form.

This is open to all who would like to learn different prayer forms.

Register Online for
Events

Contact Us

tfeuka@stfrancis.ws

www.spe-stfrancis.ws

Jesus and the Cornerstone Concept:

Differentiation of Self *with Robert Creech*

September 24, 2015

9:30am to 3:30pm

Lunch included

\$85 with lunch if you register by August 15, 2015

\$100 if you register after August 15, 2015

Registration deadline is September 15, 2015

Dr. Murray Bowen labeled the concept of "differentiation of self" as the cornerstone concept of his theory of human behavior. In his theoretical scale of differentiation, Bowen said that 100 on the scale was reserved for "that perfect human being," whose ability to manage emotional reactivity was complete.

Given Christian theology's emphasis on Jesus as the "fully human:" one, the Second Adam, what might we learn from his life about the nature of differentiation? How might his shape our understanding of spiritual formation? The primary focus of the day will be exploring the meaning of differentiation and the evidence of its presence in the gospel accounts of Jesus' life and teaching.

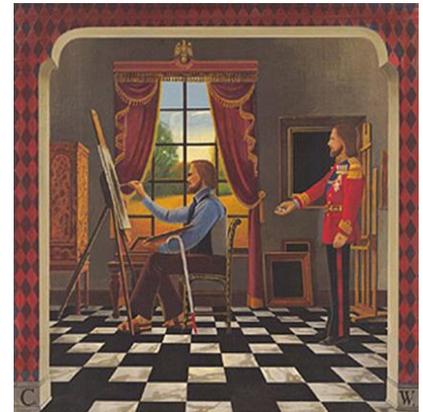
Dr. Creech is Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Christian Ministry at George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Waco Texas. He has co-authored *The Leader's Journey*. He also trains clergy in the Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family "Defining Leaders." A three-year program of coaching and teaching.

**Brochure
Registration**

Chuck Wilkinson Solo Exhibition

November 5, 2014 to January 2, 2015

Chuck Wilkinson (1932-2010) was an artist from Detroit Michigan who, along with his commercial work, painted a series of "parable painting" used as spiritual teaching tools. The folkloric, narrative paintings present his views on Christianity. You will want to take time to fully explore this thought provoking exhibit!



The Ecumenical Center for Arts and Spirituality

Call for Art

4th Annual Spring Group Art Exhibition Sustaining Pastoral Excellence at St. Francis Retreat Center

A juried Exhibition to be held April 16 – June 11, 2015

We are accepting visual art, poetry and performing art with the theme:
"Family of Faith"

Feb. 27, 2015 – Postmark Deadline for entries

Please see full information [here](#).

Contact Terry Feuka 866-669-8321 tfeuka@stfrancis.ws for further information.

Be sure to "friend" Sustaining Pastoral Excellence at St. Francis Retreat Center on Facebook! Terry posts articles, events, thoughts on the SPE page weekly. Take a moment and "friend" us.



The SPE Resource Center

We are accepting any and all donations of books, DVDs and CD's. If your items cannot be added to the collection they will be put on the DISCARD shelf where they will be available for anyone who would like them.

*If you would like to write a **review** of any of our materials please contact Terry (517-669-*

8321 x22 or tfeuka@stfrancis.ws)

As always, there is one-on-one reference assistance. Terry is more than happy to answer your question or get material for you from one of the many cooperative libraries through WorldCat.

If you have any difficulties in accessing the catalog, ATLAS or in reserving materials, please contact Terry.

Please consider making a monetary donation to the Resource Center. We love donations of books, but there are many newly published items that would make a valuable addition to our collection.



Discard Shelf

Our Discard is still alive and well! Visit the back of the Resource Center and see all that we have. We only ask that you empty your pockets of change to add to our Donation Jar. This is our means to acquiring new items for the collection. Anything you can do is appreciated.

Library Trek

SPE Resource Center is now available on your **iPhone, iPod and Android!** Use the FREE Surpass Library Trek App to:



- Check availability
- Check your account
- Reserve a book to be mailed to you
- Scan UPC barcodes from any item to see if the Resource Center has the same title for check-out
- Browse reading lists and new titles



Just go to the App Store on your iPhone or iPod and search for ***Library Trek.***



St. Francis Retreat Center DeWitt, MI

SPE is located on the beautiful 95 acre campus of St. Francis Retreat Center. Comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, excellent service and year-round retreats all available in DeWitt, Michigan. Visit our website for more information www.stfrancis.ws

*Wishing you, your family and
friends a Blessed Christmas
Season!*

