

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**SEEKING GOD/OUR JOURNEYS**  
**February 2025**

## Bulletin Cover ~ Photo by Sr. Deborah, Retreat 2008

Worship together is a means of connection, however, our daily prayer is what binds us together in love.

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### **Community Communication Contacts:**

**Prayer Requests and Thankgivings for the monthly Bulletin** - email Erin Diericx, WSHS, emdeerx@gmail.com, or see green sheets for her mailing address.

**Changes of address, phone numbers, email addresses** - email Sr. Shirley Evangeline at sr.shirleyevangelinpace@gmail.com or Sr. Christine at casturges@gmail.com or see green sheets for mailing addresses.

**Urgent Community Prayer Requests for email distribution** – email or call Sr. Kathleen Rachel (srkathleenrachel@gmail.com) or Sr. Wendy Samuel (srwendysamuel@gmail.com)

### **Financial Contributions –**

Members residing in the U.S., make checks payable to WSHS/WBHS and mail to:  
Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, Treasurer, United States, 12900 Glenwood Street, Apt. 108, Overland Park, KS 66209

**If you pay any bills through your bank, you can easily send your contributions to WSHS the same way. Use the address above to send your check. You can make a one-time payment or a recurring payment. If you have questions, your bank will be happy to help you. And - you don't need any postage!**

Members residing in Canada, make cheques payable to WSHS/WBHS and mail to Br. David, WBHS, Treasurer, Canada. 2170 Preston Road, Cavan Monaghan, Ontario, K9J 0G5 Canada

**Contributions to Haiti Clean Water Project – This project has been discontinued until the situation in Haiti is resolved.**

**Problems Receiving your Bulletin** - If you are not receiving the monthly Bulletin (by regular mail or by email), please email or **call Sr. Christine, not Trina**. Thank you.

**If a friend expresses interest in WSHS/WBHS, remember to direct them to our website, [www.workersisters.org](http://www.workersisters.org), [www.workerbrothers.org](http://www.workerbrothers.org)**

**Web Addresses: [workersisters.org](http://workersisters.org) [workerbrothers.org](http://workerbrothers.org)**

### **THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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Sr. M. Regina Goberna, O.S.B. (New City Press, NY, 1983)  
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
REGIONAL GATHERINGS  
February 2025**

Below is a list of the monthly Regional Gatherings and Corporate Communion. Meetings are open to all members (Sisters, Brothers, Workers, Companions, Friends and Applicants). If you are interested in attending an online Regional Gathering, please contact the Zoom Host and she/he will add you to the group's email list.

**Regional Zoom Gatherings**

**February 22, 2025**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Eastern Regional USA<br>& Southern Regional USA | Br. David, WBHS, brdavidwbhs1@gmail.com                 | 1:00 PM ET   |
| Central Regional USA                            | Sr. Catherine Marie, WSHS, sr.catherine.marie@gmail.com | 2:00 PM CT   |
| Western Regional USA                            | Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com             | 10:00 AM AZ Time<br>(10AM MST, 11AM CST, Noon EST) |

**In-person Corporate Communion**

|                          |                         |     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Pleasant Hill, Tennessee | Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS | TBD |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----|

**REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES**

**\*\*\*NOTE DATE CHANGE from 4th Saturday to 3rd Saturday in May & Dec 2025  
February 22 • March 22 • April 26 • \*\*\*May 17 • June 28 • July 26 • August 23  
September 27 • October 25 • November 22 • \*\*\*December 20**

**Chapter Meets Online: February 12, 2025 @ 1pm EST**

**Retreat Dates: APRIL 24 – 27, 2025 at Mercy Center**

**Call to Prayer.** Please remember our Community in prayer twice a day 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM in your time zone and pray for World Peace at Noon.



**8:00 AM - Prayer for our Community  
12:00 Noon - Prayer for World Peace  
5:00 PM - Prayer for our Community**

**COMMUNITY CHANGES**

*Please make the following alterations to your Green Sheets:*

Chapter accepted, with regret, Bishop Susan Bell's decision to withdraw from the Community. Please remove her name under the Friends section of the Green Sheets

Remember to add Bishop Riscylla Shaw's name to the Friends section:

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, Bishop Visitor Canada  
135 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario M4C 1L8  
Email: rshaw@toronto.anglican.ca

**Reminder to Sisters, Brothers and Workers**

1. Please email your entire "Yellow" letter to your Cluster Leader including Prayer Requests, Recommendations and News Notes.
2. Email a copy of only your Prayer Requests, Thanksgivings and News Notes to:

Erin Diericx, WSHS emdeerx@gmail.com  
Her mailing address is: 1204 North Prospect Avenue, Lecanto,  
Florida 34461

**Reminder to Companions and Friends**

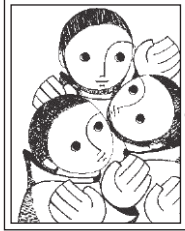
Send your responses to the Friends and Companions Corner to:

Marya Pohlmeier, Companion, maryalovestravel@gmail.com  
1677 Mount Vernon Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303

**To view the online Green Sheets, Go to [www.workersisters.org](http://www.workersisters.org);**

- Centered above the group photo are the words:  
HOME WHO WE ARE COMMUNITY LIFE MORE
- Click on MORE. That will show another list of options. Click on MEMBER PAGES.

- When it says to sign into your account, REMEMBER to Sign in as: [wshs.wbhs@gmail.com](mailto:wshs.wbhs@gmail.com)
- If you don't remember the password, please contact Sr. Christine.



## SPECIAL NEWS NOTES

Bishop Riscylla Shaw, WSHS/WBHS' new Canadian Ecclesiastical Visitor, visited Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora, Ontario on Jan. 12, 2025. This is a photo of her with Sr. Jane Bartimaeus, a member of Trinity.



## FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

At Retreat 2025, Pat Cashman and Sara Hornor will be admitted as Lay Workers. We asked each of them to write a few lines about their journey with WSHS. Please pray for Pat and Sara as they prepare for Retreat.



From Pat:

The Benedictine lifestyle is very dear to me. At one time (2003 – 2010) I lived in Episcopal communities after I was divorced and my girls were grown up. The moment I read The WSHS Rule in January of 2022, I was filled with wonder. I had never heard of this community! I thought of God's sense of humor and the timing of His gifts. A

door opened and I've received nothing but blessings as I've attended retreats, and zoom meetings, worked through yellow pages and packets. I'm in my early 70s. I've had a wonderful life in my psych nursing, crisis worker, chaplain, and parish priest roles. I continue in work mode at present. I am thrilled to "show up in the world" as a monastic person, as a Worker member. I extend love to you all and look forward to more learning and leading from the Holy Spirit. Thank you for reading this and welcoming me.



From Sara:

I feel deeply called to make a permanent commitment to the community of the Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit because I have experienced the transformative power of living in communion with others who dedicate their lives to prayer, service, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This community has nurtured my faith, strengthened my relationship with God, and inspired me to live out my vocation with purpose and love.

As I prepare for admission, I humbly ask for your prayers and support, that I may continue to discern God's will with clarity and remain faithful to His calling. Your prayers would mean so much to me as I take this next step in embracing the mission of this sacred community.

### **RETREAT REMINDERS**

By now you should have received the 2025 Retreat Brochure and forms. If you have not received it, please email or call Sr. Christine and she will send you the material.

There are scholarships available to help with the cost of travel. Send your request to: Sr. Nancy Teresa, E-mail – [nancybrooks40@gmail.com](mailto:nancybrooks40@gmail.com)

Remember that this year there is one registration fee of \$100 per person for those attending in-person at Mercy Center. All accommodations and meals will be paid for by the WSHS/WBHS Community.

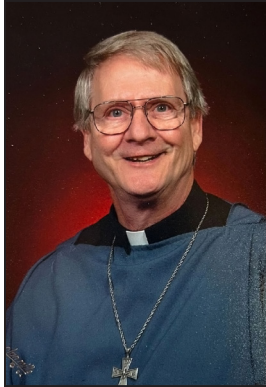
We invite all members of the Community to attend: Workers, Sisters, Brothers, Companions and Friends. Plan now to attend! Retreat dates are April 24-27, 2025. (Thursday to Sunday).



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**COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

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**Remembering Br. Andrew (Finley Brown)**

Br. Andrew was a United Church of Christ minister and a Chaplain at Baptist Hospital, Kansas City, MO when he and Sr. Angela met through their ministry as Chaplains. They were married in the early 1970's. He took the name Br. Andrew when he became part of the WSHS/WBHS Community in 1983, not long after the beginning of Worker Brothers in December 1979. His daughter Susanne, of whom he was so proud, was a friend of our Community prior to her death.

In the early 1980's he and Sr. Angela moved to Cary, IL where he took the position as Head of Pastoral Care at Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington. He was Vice President of Religion and Health and a Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor. Finley had always wanted to have CPE (a seminary course) for lay people, who could assist their clergy in pastoral care in their own parishes. The program he put together was approved by the hospital, and the first four people to take it were Sr. Meredith James, Sr. Diane Richard, and two other people from the Barrington community.

One of our Community member's fondest memories is riding with Angela and Finley to and from Cliff Springs, Missouri, on the back of Sr. Angela's motorcycle. Finley shared the joy of riding motorcycles and sailing with Sr. Angela and they spent many happy days going out on Lake Michigan in their sailboat.

When he reached retirement age in the 1990's, he and Angela moved to Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, where they built their home. He was very good at communicating with the local people: a ministry of sincerity. He was also very supportive of our WSHS/WBHS Community.

Br. Andrew was an avid watercolorist, and he often had his sketchbook with him at Retreat. He would share his drawings and his love of art with the Community.

Many enjoyed his wonderfully quirky sense of humor. His artwork was hanging throughout their house, in particular a watercolor of a chair looking out at a sailboat, sailing away. This was a poignant image — it wasn't known who would sail away first. In his last years he was devoted to his cat companion of 18 plus years.




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## SPIRITUAL SHARING

I am currently trying to get YouTube on the television I use for instructional purposes in my English as a Second Language classroom. I don't have the technical know-how to hook into YouTube, and the person I have asked to help me has not yet come through for me. I solicit your prayers that I somehow manage to get hooked up to YouTube.

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On the third Sunday of Advent I had an interesting experience. During the service we had a short video about joy and the voice-over talked about our connectedness. I suddenly realized that is the key to joy. I'm sure I have thought about that before but it has a deeper meaning to me now! And I am feeling very joyful and hoping I will become more open to others. In thinking about connection, I will send all Community members an email on their birthdays. (If they have an email address).

\*\*\*\*\*

It was such a joy to receive your letter! You sound so upbeat and dare I say Joyful? I am so happy for you. It sounds like Advent was an Epiphany for you and I am so happy that you are now in a better place. I know that it is really hard sometimes for one to pull yourself out of whatever has a hold on your joy or happiness or even just contentment. But I do know that God does send us encouragement and peace when we need it the most.

\*\*\*\*\*

Once again, I find myself a little down this holiday season, because of the societal pressure of finding love and sharing it with them. And sometimes after gathering, when friends are leaving to go home and are excited to go home to their husbands or boyfriends (totally normal), I am going home to just me and my dog, and

he gives me kisses and loves me, and he keeps me going. It is just not the same. I am trying my best to focus on enjoying time with friends and family and making memories. My big thing this Christmas is making memories over giving actual gifts. Just trying to be present.

\*\*\*\*\*

One of the most memorable times were when old friends asked about WSHS. What are we? Do you have to be an Episcopalian? How do you manage to hold meetings? Tell us more about your retreats. A few even had known about our retreats in St. Louis. Perhaps we might get a new member or two as they were unaware of our Zoom meetings.

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Our commitment to our Community continues to grow throughout the years as we bless each other with our loving support and prayers so dear to my heart and our history. Sr. Angela, our Founder, who guided us spiritually for so many years. Sr. LaVerne Peter, Prioress who continued guiding us on our spiritual journey after Sr. Angela and now our Sr. Wendy Samuel, Prioress who continues to guide us in our spiritual journey. We are all so very blessed to have our loving Community guide us throughout our spiritual lives and in the future we will thrive and make history. Blessings to all of us during this season of hope.

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I always find it so inspiring when we meet, although we are miles apart, it is like a great family meeting. We can share our thoughts with all the members of the Community, knowing that God is blessing these wonderful monthly meetings.

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Today in Forward Day By Day, there was a reflection on the feeding of the five thousand. The disciples are saying to Jesus, "How can we feed so many?" while a young boy offered what he had in loaves and fishes. The end of the writer's reflection provided a wonderful shift in my focus. (Which has admittedly been rather focused on myself while I was so ill.) Jackie Fulop wrote: "Instead of focusing on my limitation, I can offer what I have to Jesus, as insignificant or ineffective as it may seem. I know he will take it, bless it, and use it. The miracle is in the offering." Wow! my part is to offer what I have, no matter how ineffective it may seem to me. Well - There was my epiphany for the first week in Epiphany.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

**Seeking God: Our Journeys****By****Marilyn Propp, WSHS**

*Marilyn Propp, WSHS lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She was admitted as a Lay Worker in 1978. Marilyn currently serves on Chapter and is a member of our Communications team.*

I had had glimpses of God's presence throughout my life. When I was a little child, I loved exploring the outdoors by myself, and would sing and take delight in God's companionship. I grew up with no consistent parenting. Though my parents were loving, my beautiful mother would disappear, and when she came back, she would be changed. My father, too, was funny and loving, but sometimes angry, and never explained where my mother went or why she would change from a caring delightful person into (to my young eyes) a monster. There was a lot of love and a lot of terror in my childhood. My favorite times were when I was outside, alone and happy, delighting in the sense of freedom, the smell of the air, the earth, the sense of space and light.

At age 13 my class went to the Northfield Religious Conference in Massachusetts, where we sat under the trees with Bishop John Walker and the Rev. William Sloan Coffin. During chapel I wanted to take Communion, but I thought it would be sacrilegious. I would sit atop a hill in the evenings and listen to the bells chime. It was so peaceful. At age 16, the Rabbi laid hands on my head for confirmation and I felt God's presence, so real, so close. I yearned for that again.

At age 31, after years of searching, I asked Jesus into my heart. It was as though I was standing at the edge of a cliff, not knowing if there would be anyone to catch me when I made that leap of faith. I began to remember my Jewish prayers. Finally I said, "Jesus, I don't know if you're real or not, but if you are, come into my heart,

and heal me." And I prayed Ezekiel 11:19, for God to "remove [my] heart of stone and give [me] a heart of flesh." I instantly felt all this love wrap around me and pour over me. The next day I had my first healing of memories. Praying with my friends, I remembered and was present to a moment in my childhood: standing in the kitchen, my mother so ill, and I was so frightened, but this time, I saw Jesus there with me, holding me. My hardened heart, that I had learned to lock up at an early age, was gradually being softened.

When I asked Jesus into my heart, it was as though a veil had been lifted between me and God, and now I knew He was with me. I could feel His presence. It was so amazing to me that all I had to do was speak and listen deep in my heart and I would hear him responding. I could hear His words of love to me. All I had to do was ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit before preparing for class, or working in the studio, and I would be guided. It was amazing!

At my Baptism it was like the purest mountain water pouring over me and I felt all the old me wash away and a new me begin. I received a prayer language and when I asked God what I was saying, He replied "Father God, I am your child and I love you." When I was a new baby Christian I would drag myself to the altar for Eucharist, feeling spent, depleted. The Eucharist was food and strength for me. I would leave the altar refreshed, rested, replenished. I needed Eucharist 2 or 3 times per week. I think it was because all those years before I re-met and returned to the Lord, I was spiritually starving. I loved the Lord as a child, would sing to Him. He was my playmate and companion. I loved going to Temple, especially the silent prayer time. But when I left home my searching led me to a very destructive life. So, when I asked Jesus into my heart, it was like coming home. Now, Eucharist is always where I feel healed, refreshed, strengthened, and where I can bring my cares to the Lord and ask for strength and guidance.

Because I was brought up Jewish, I knew the Psalms. I had relied on them as a teenager when my mother was so ill. I'd close my door and read God's words of love and reassurance to me. But now they came alive in a new way. Scriptures jumped out at me and spoke to my heart. One of the first in those early days, after my Baptism, was Matthew 10:31: "Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." I distinctly heard "Fear not, little one," but when I went back and read it again, that wasn't there. Every scripture I read was as though God was talking to me, personally. I learned to trust, to know that I was loved. Because my mother was so unpredictable throughout my life, I had been filled with fear. I read Psalm 91 over and over until it seeped into my being. "Because she cleaves to me

in love, I will deliver her; I will protect her, because she knows my name. When she calls to me, I will answer her; I will be with her in trouble, I will rescue her and honor her.”

I’ve had many healing moments over the years. It was Fr. John Lambert who kept pulling me into the chapel to pray over me. Fr. Harry and the All Saints community accepted me and loved me as I was. Every Wednesday I’d attend the healing services at St. Luke’s hospital, where Fr. Beachy would pray over me and anoint me. I once asked him why I was being healed when others were suffering. He said, “Because you asked.”

It was the time of the Charismatic Renewal in Kansas City, and I went to every healing workshop I could find (healing from the womb, healing over my mother, healing of memories, forgiving my parents). It was 1979 and Sr. Peg Matthias led me to the WSHS. I was a broken little bird. Initially I just fell into the Community blindly and with no intentional thought. I was stumbling and seeking and in need of healing. Thus began a journey of spiritual, emotional, physical, and psychological healing.

Monthly Corporate Communion and meetings were times of prayer and listening led by Sr. Angela. One of the first things she said to me during a monthly meeting at All Saints, while we sat in a small group at a round table, was that I needed to be quiet and listen. At our annual Retreats Sr. Angela would hold me during the entire healing service. It has been the stability, structure, and a loving Community of acceptance that is non-judgmental that has helped build me into who I am today. During those early days God’s words of love in Zechariah and Isaiah spoke to my heart and sustained me. Isaiah 55:12: “For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” Isaiah 58:11: “And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Jeremiah 17:14: “Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for thou art my praise.”

When I had breast cancer in 1992, and I had trouble breathing from the radiation treatments, a friend called and said he was supposed to share a scripture with me. It was the valley of dry bones, from Ezekiel 37:15, where the Lord says He “will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.” I held on to Zephaniah 3:14-20 all

through my treatments. I won't write all of it here, but here are a few phrases: "Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.... He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.... I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it." And the Lord got me through it.

When we moved to Chicago, I found a wonderful therapist. During those 16 years she helped me to be released from the past so I could live in the present. I came to no longer see the world as a dangerous place, and people as frightening distant authority figures. I began to see the world as a wondrous place full of possibilities, and people as interesting and delightful. I learned to listen. Now, I have a healing ministry at St. Matthew's. I've retired from teaching, and I work in my studio. I am learning patience, as I wait and watch for what the Lord has next. I hold on to Deuteronomy 31:8 "It is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you, he will not fail you or forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed."

*Thank you so much Marilyn, for sharing your views and very personal journey with your Community on this month's theme.*

### **Questions for Reflection**

***Please remember it is not necessary to answer all of the questions  
Choose one or two that speak to you and perhaps you would like to share.***

1. Marilyn writes: "I had had glimpses of God's presence throughout my life." Does this statement relate to you? Can you name a time when you did?
2. They say the longest journey is that journey from the head to the heart, and sometimes it is true that when we are most vulnerable and most child-like, we are most open to receive God's love. Reflect on a time of vulnerability when God met a deep need of yours.
3. Marilyn often hears God's voice in Scripture. Do any of the Scriptures, meaningful to her, resonate with you? Or are there special Scriptures that have spoken to you on your journey? Reflect on the ones that have given you hope or love or courage when you needed just that support.