

Living with Grace and Passion

A Seasonal Newsletter from Peggy Patenaude
Winter 2019

Coming Up in 2019

Spirituality for Everyday Living

Monthly Mini-Retreats

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Sacred Hearts Retreat Center
Wareham, MA
Open to All

Winter Series

*The Future of the Catholic Church
will be the topic of the first two
winter sessions.*

January 9: *The Main Thing*
February 13: *Outside the Box*
March 13: *Pray as You Can*

Spring Series (Titles TBA)

April 10, May 8, June 5

Peggy's Women's Retreats

Lyrics of the Heart*

January 18-20, 2019
Miramar Retreat Center
Duxbury, MA

Bless It All

April 12-14, 2019
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center
Wareham, MA

Lyrics of the Heart*

April 26-28, 2019
Bon Secours Retreat Center
Marriottsville, MD

**With StoweGood*

For information & registration:
Contact Peggy at (508) 548-9149 or
timeoutretreats@comcast.net

**For Peggy's complete calendar
and program descriptions visit**
www.timeoutretreats.com.

Peg's Ponderings: *Jesus with Skin On*

Just ten minutes after a mother put her son to bed, he called downstairs saying he was scared. "There is nothing to be scared of," Mom responded, "go to sleep."

The child's fear was not alleviated, so he yelled, "Mom, but it's dark up here." Trying to comfort her son, she said, "You'll be okay. Close your eyes. Go to sleep." The boy was not convinced and pleaded, "Mom, will you come up with me?" Feeling quite frustrated at this point and with a tinge of irritation in her voice, she answered, "Go to sleep, God is with you." The child cried out, "Yeah, but I want *someone with skin on.*"

Isn't that what we all want when we are sad, lonely or scared? A real human being to comfort and assure us that all will be well, and doing so not necessarily even with words, but perhaps a warm embrace.

During the Christmas Season I always remember this story because I think of Christmas as an incredible love story. Think about it. God loves you and me *so much* that God became one of us *in the flesh*, which is the meaning of the word "incarnation." In other words, Jesus is God *with skin on*. Jesus is also a role model for *us* on how to live on this earth with our sisters and brothers.

One more story. A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a lesson in kindness. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my *brother* have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "*Ryan, you be Jesus.*"

That really is *our* task and challenge as Christians - *to be Jesus*. We are called to make Christ real for others and we make Him real for others, simply by being like Jesus. Just as Jesus is God with skin on, *we can be Jesus with skin on.*

As we anticipate the new year ahead, perhaps we might ask ourselves, "How might I reflect Christ's love to others? How can I grow more like Him?" Wouldn't that be a wonderful way to celebrate the Incarnation?



Passing It On

Rest Your Dreams on a Little Twig by Joyce Rupp and Barbara Loomis

Rupp's love of nature expressed through poetry combined with Loomis' beautiful sketches create simple but poignant meditations. As usual, Rupp invites the reader to see deeper meaning in all of life's wonders.

Concerts with StoweGood

"Spirituality in Song"

Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM
Miramar Retreat Center, 121 Parks St. Duxbury, MA
Call 781-585-2460 to reserve a seat. Advance tickets \$20 / \$25 at the door



"Sounds of Hope"

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM Tickets: \$25
Calvary United Methodist Church, 301 Rowe Blvd. Annapolis, MD
To purchase tickets click:
<https://stowegoodbenefitconcert.yapsody.com/event/book/288141/5153331>
100% of ticket sales will go to N.A.M.I. (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Who are StoweGood? Grammy-nominated hit songwriters Stowe Dailey and Karen Taylor-Good hail from Nashville, TN. These two amazing women have not only beautiful voices, but also lyrics and stories that have the power to touch one's soul. Together they are *StoweGood!*

Recent Events

A sampling of 2018 autumn programs . . .



"Taming the Monster"

September 14, 2018
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA

"To Be Loved"

September 22, 2018
Annunciation of the Lord Parish Retreat
Dominican House, Dighton, MA



"Autumn Reflections"

September 29, 2018
Sophia's Circle Retreat Day
The Cenacle, Chicago, IL

"Autumn Reflections"

October 9, 2018
Our Lady of the Cape Women's Guild
Brewster, MA



"Live Big"

October 10, 2018
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA

"It's My Pleasure"

November 14, 2018
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center Wareham, MA



A Little Soul Food

Sharon's Christmas Prayer

She was five,
sure of the facts,
and recited them
with slow solemnity
convinced every word
was revelation.
She said

they were so poor
they had only peanut butter
and jelly sandwiches to eat
and they went a long way
from home
without getting lost.
The lady rode
a donkey, the man walked,
and the baby
was inside the lady.
They had to stay in a stable
with an ox
and an ass (hee-hee)
but the Three Rich Men
found them
because a star lited the roof.
Shepherds came and you
could pet the sheep but not
feed them.
Then the baby was borned.
And do you know who he
was?

Her quarter eyes inflated to
silver dollars.
THE BABY WAS GOD!

And she jumped in the
air, whirled round,
dove into the sofa and
buried her head
under the cushion
which is the only
proper response to the
Good News of the
Incarnation.

by John Shea, *The Hour of the
Unexpected*, Allan, Texas, Argus
Communications, 1977