

The Michael Messenger

Newsletter of the Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC)
of the Anthroposophical Society

DECEMBER 2015-JANUARY 2016
Vol. I No. 3





Calendar of Holiday Events

Fri. Dec. 4	Advent Spiral of Light at EWS – all day
Sat. Dec. 5	Talk by Rev. Carol Kelly - Brown Wing 7:30 pm
Sun. Dec. 6	Second Sunday of Advent – Eurythmy Room 4:30 Act of Consecration 10:30 am
Fri. Dec. 11	Choral Concert at ERUUF 6:30-8:30 pm
Sat. Dec. 12	“Beat the Devil” with Glen Williamson Brown Wing 7-9 PM – cost \$20.
Sun. Dec. 13	Third Sunday of Advent “Incarnation of the Logos” with Glen Williamson Brown Wing 4:30; Advent Celebration following it
Mon. Dec. 14	Santa Lucia celebration at EWS
Wed. Dec. 16	EWS Orchestra Performance 3:30 in Brown Wing
Fri. Dec. 18	Shepherd’s Play at ERUUF around 11:00
Sat. Dec. 19	“Shed-raising” and crèche building at Infinity Farm 10 am-3 pm
Sun. Dec. 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent 4:30 at Judy Frey’s
Thurs. Dec. 24	Caroling to the animals at Infinity Farm 7 pm
Dec. 25-Jan. 5	Holy Nights (see schedule inside)

(Details of all events on the following pages)

Witnessing the Four Sundays of Advent Through Art, Drama and Biography

We invite you to participate in our branch's observance of the four Sundays of Advent. We shall work with the arts to come to a deeper understanding of the forces at work during this sacred time of year. Each Advent Sunday will commence at **4:30 PM** and will include lighting of the Advent wreath, a verse, music, songs by the Festival Singers, group participation and dialogue. We hope you will support our efforts and gratefully encourage your participation.

~the Cultural Group and the Board

First Sunday of Advent: Working with the forces of the Mineral Kingdom

November 29th, 2015 at 4:30

Clay work and sharing

Offered by Diana Haynes

At the home of Joanna Carey,

4207 Neal Rd., Durham, NC

Please bring a pot Luck dish to share

Second Sunday of Advent – exploring the forces of the Etheric World

December 6, 2015 at 4:30 PM

Eurythmy offering and participation

Offered by Christina Beck, Eve Olive, and Sylvie Richard

In the Eurythmy Room at EWS

Third Sunday of Advent: Exploring the Astral World

Dramatic presentations by Glen Williamson:

"Beating the Devil" (the story of Goethe's *Faust*) Saturday December 12th 7-9 PM and

"Incarnation of the Logos" December 13th 4:30-6: PM (Fee of \$20. for each of these performances – sliding scale available for those experiencing financial hardship))

In the Brown Wing in the EWS High School building

Advent Observance immediately following the performance

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Studying the nature of the Ego (the Human Kingdom)

December 20, 2015 at 4:30 PM

Offered by Joanna Carey

At the home of Judy Frey, 55206 Broughton in Chapel Hill, NC

Biography work with examples in the world and with each other

Please bring a Pot Luck dish to share

Lighting the Advent Wreath:



The first light of Advent is the light of stones -
Stones that live in crystals, seashells and bones.

The second light of Advent is the light of plants -
Plants that reach up to the sun and in the breezes dance.

The third light of Advent is the light of beasts -
All await the birth, from the greatest to the least.

The fourth light of Advent is the light of humankind -
The light of hope that we may learn to love and understand.

For the seeker of Light, the time of Advent will be an exceptional time of trial. He must ever strive to hold separate the persons who cause him pain from the actual events, because the pain and difficulties are sent to us as tests, while the person through whom the event occurs are merely instruments. We must try to be open, and in every situation, find peace (equanimity) in it without losing ourselves.

The content of the Advent trials demand that we bring to life in us the Divine and not simply experience the Divine in exceptional conditions. Everything which is connected with our lower earthly personality must be put aside. We should become child-like and completely relaxed with our fellow human beings. All dissension, irritations and antipathies should be put aside.

Before every important Festival, there comes an opportunity for self-mastery through a SACRIFICE.

The Christmas Mood

The Light comes to fill the darkest night with Clarity. During Advent, the Earth has become an empty Chalice. All the sap from the Plant Kingdom has retreated into the Earth, as it prepares itself to receive Divine forces.

The steps of Advent are like Stages of Consciousness for the Soul. The Twelve Holy Nights are symbols of the twelve Soul Forces which we must bring to life within ourselves, not just during these Holy Nights, but always. ~ Rudolf Steiner



Come to a Shed-Raising on December 19th; Caroling to the Animals on Christmas Eve

Last Spring the barn at Infinity Farm burned down and the Kwapiens thought that this year we would have to skip the annual tradition of singing to the animals on Christmas Eve. But then Joy had the inspiration that if we had a "shed-raising" (as opposed to a barn-raising) it would be enough to continue the tradition. A manger would also need to be fashioned And so on Saturday, December 19, please come and help 10 am - 3 pm as we build a shed and manger for the Christmas Eve festivities. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Then on December 24th, stop by around 7. There will be hot cider and refreshments as we sing carols to the goats, cows and chickens at Infinity Farm. Legend has it that on midnight on Christmas Eve, the animals can talk. If we sing long enough, maybe we will hear them! A Holy Nights discussion will follow the singing.

Christianity in the Age of Materialism: A Talk by Rev. Carol Kelly Saturday, December 5th 7:30-9:00 PM In the Brown Wing at EWS

We often think of materialism as “consumerism”, producing and wanting ever more and more stuff. Yes, that is one of the results of materialistic thinking, but it goes much deeper than that. Materialism, belief that this world is all there is, and that things are as we perceive them, is much more insidious. It is in each one of us, in the air we breathe and the water we drink, in our educational systems and even in our churches. How do we find our way through materialism to the spirit? Can we get there from here?

John the Baptist has said, “Change your heart and mind.” One small change within us can bring about amazing results! It is as if the Universe has been waiting so long that one step in the right direction is met with tremendous encouragement. We can change our vision and learn to see the world differently and transform materialism. Join us on this exciting journey of discovery.



Act of Consecration – Sunday, December 6

- Children’s story will be told at 9:30 am with a brief children’s service beginning at 10:00 am.
- The Act of Consecration of Man begins at 10:30 am. Please do not enter late if possible.
- Snacks and circle time will begin at 12:00 noon. Community announcements shared.
- Childcare is available. Please let us know if you’ll be bringing children and their ages.

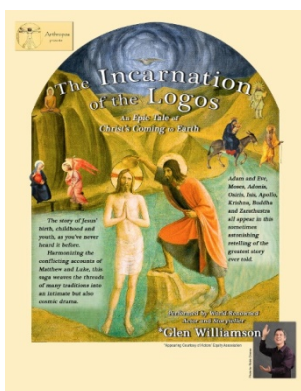
For more information: contact Diana Haynes at: dh@christiancommunitync.org or to arrange a Sacramental consultation with Rev. Carol, please call 845-803-2071 or carolkelly.cc@gmail.com



**The Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC)
of the Anthroposophical Society in America presents:
Actor/Storyteller Glen Williamson in:**

Beat the Devil! Faust, Goethe's masterpiece is coming to Chapel Hill, **Dec. 12th, 2015 from 7 - 9 pm in the Brown Wing** of the Emerson Waldorf School. Glen Williamson has created a brilliant exposé of Faust who makes a deal with the devil for his soul in exchange for earthly pleasures and knowledge. This story is a metaphor for the temptations we face and how we must overcome the seduction of Lucifer and Ahriman in our astral body. Very appropriate material for the 3rd week of Advent when we are contemplating the astral world and our tasks in it.

Sunday, Dec. 13th, 2015, 4:30 - 6 pm, Glen will be performing another original work - the



Incarnation of the Logos. This epic tale of Christ's coming to Earth is told from the esoteric perspective as revealed by Rudolf Steiner. It includes the foretelling of Christ's descent from the starry heavens from the ancient Greek, Egyptian, Persian and Indian cultures. The birth of Christ is presented as occurring when Jesus is baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist. An extraordinary performance that will help us prepare for the spiritual event of Christmas and the 12 Holy Nights.

Details: Both events will be held at the Emerson Waldorf School Brown room at 6211 New Jericho Rd, Chapel Hill, NC.

Ticket prices are \$20 for each show. This is a high cost event for the branch

and we will allow a limited number of discounted tickets for those who truly are unable to pay the full amount. These tickets will be reserved for students, faculty of the EWS and those in need.

Glen Williamson, a founding member of The Actors' Ensemble and New Directions Theater in New York City, appeared in numerous productions with both companies. He has given his one-man performances of *Beat the Devil! Faust*, *the Whole Story*, *The Incarnation of the Logos: An Epic Tale of Christ's Coming to Earth*, *Kaspar Hauser* and Kurt Vonnegut's *The Kid Nobody Could Handle* and *Who Am I This Time?* throughout the U.S., Canada, the U.K, Germany and Switzerland and has toured throughout North America in *The Refugees' Tale*, based on Goethe's *Green Snake* parable, with Laurie Portocarrero. Glen held the leading roles in Rudolf Steiner's four Mystery Dramas performed sequentially in 2014 in Spring Valley, NY. He currently plays multiple roles in the touring production of *The Gospel of John* with Walking the Dog Theater and the title role in *Aeschylus Unbound*, which Glen co-wrote with the late film star Mala Powers. Glen's performance of *Beat the Devil! Faust*, *the Whole Story* won the award for Best Adaptation at the United Solo Theater Festival off-Broadway in 2011. The off-Broadway run of Glen's one-man play *The Boy Who Saw True* was chosen by *Back Stage* as one of the five best plays of 1992. Glen trained in the Michael Chekhov acting technique and at The Juilliard School and has acted with the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and the American Stage Festival in New Hampshire. Other appearances include *Macbeth* with Shakespeare Alive!, *Sylvia* by A. R. Gurney, Rudolf Steiner's *The Souls' Awakening* at the Goetheanum in Switzerland, storytelling with the Grupo de Euritmia de São Paulo in San Diego, and speaking poetry in a Camphill benefit concert at Carnegie Hall.



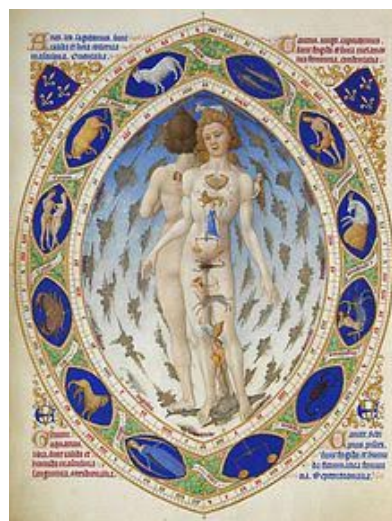
The Holy Nights 2015

The seeds of the coming year's twelve months are sewn during the Christmas experience of the Twelve Holy Nights. That is why these 12 days are so important. If we, for example go astray in the first few days, we plant a seed which in the first few months of the year will act negatively right into the blood. We must strive to live as regularly and virtuously as possible during the 12 holy days, because we need every year to work on our Rebirth - let no time go to waste!

~ Rudolf Steiner

As Rudolf Steiner has indicated, the Holy Nights are a time for self-development, and can even be a Path of Initiation. Each year our branch comes together to study, to listen, to share and do artistic activities in order to experience this sacred time by working with a theme or book.

This year our Cultural Group has decided on the theme of “the Virtues”, referring to the 12 mantras on the virtues assigned to each of the 12 Zodiacal signs. Rudolf Steiner learned these from Mme. Blavatsky. Steiner did write about them and created a verse for each zodiacal sign that is contained in a booklet known as *The Twelve Moods*. (available from Mercury Press, or for free from rsarchives.org) If you have studied astrology, these “virtues” might not seem to make sense at first, until you realize that they are *not* the virtues or strengths of that particular constellation, but rather they are the virtues that sign needs to develop. -They are the antidote for their Double’s behavior. For example, when one thinks of Gemini, the first thing that probably comes to mind is fickleness and craving for variety – so what is it that is needed to develop? Perseverance and steadfastness, which are exactly what the virtue prescribes. The same holds for all the signs.



Following this article is the schedule listing the people who have volunteered to host or present the Holy Nights. In most cases host and presenter are the same, but in some cases, the presenter could not host at their home, or the host preferred not to present, and so someone else is doing it.

What does a host do? Offer their home and hospitality including refreshments. The host is also the contact person for the evening. The presenter, on the other hand, creates the agenda for the entire evening – candle, verse, a reading or talk on the material, questions for discussion, an artistic offering – it could be as simple as singing Christmas Carols, or perhaps you may want to have journal writing, poetry, painting, drawing, Mandala creating, a humorous skit or Christmas crafts.

A presenter should send an email out to the list-serve at least two days prior to their Holy Night letting the community know what they have planned.

If you need ideas for your presentation, you may find some inspiration in the following: the late William Bento’s Holy Nights Journals (check the Steiner library for availability). Adriana Koulias has a magnificent Holy Nights presentation with meditations on the signs of the Zodiac on her blog “ www.adrianakouliasblog.blogspot.com

Krisina Kaine gave a very inspiring Holy Nights journal with references to the zodiac as well at her website : www.esotericconnection.com

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Branch is offering a Holy Nights journal with emphasis on the constellations that will be similar to what William Bento used to offer. It is written by Alan Thewless and J. Patrick Doyle. You may order it from Patrick at his email : jpatrickdoyle@earthlink.net or call him at 518-8665. The cost is \$16. For an email copy of the journal or \$23. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you.

Ruth Young told us about the wonderful 70-page Holy Nights journal the shining Mt. Waldorf School in Boulder has created: *The Coming of the Light and the Sacred Nights of Winter* available for \$34. by mail. I just got my copy and it looks like a tailor-made workbook for the theme we have chosen! To order, go to the website: www.Sophia-Rising.com or call Kim Marie at 303-443-3617.

And of course everyone knows Lynn Jericho's website which offers a new Holy Nights theme each year with daily inspirational messages: www.imagineself.com/inner-christmas

If you would like a really deep understanding of the Holy Nights, nothing is more profound than Sergei Prokofieff's *The Twelve Holy Nights and the Spiritual Hierarchies*.

One question that inevitably comes up when one does a study of the Holy Nights is : which day corresponds to which sign of the zodiac? Our community is working with the sequence William Bento preferred where Christmas Day represents Capricorn and the signs proceed in order with the days ending with Sagittarius on January 5th. (While I have not been able to find Steiner getting specific about this in any of his printed lectures, there is a copy of notes from a lecture he gave in the early 1900's that has been circulating on the Internet and it goes along with the Capricorn to Sagittarius sequence.) This appears very logical since Christmas is in the sign of Capricorn. However Prokofieff wrote that the Holy Nights are a path from Jesus to Christ and should therefore begin with Pisces (the sign of the fishes) and proceed backward to Aries (the sign of the lamb and the Resurrection). Adriana Koulias prefers this order. Still others claim that since Aries is the first sign of the year, it should be the first day of the Holy Nights and the constellations should proceed in order ending with Pisces. This is the preference of Corinne Heline, a student of Max Heindel, who was a student of Steiner's. Personally I feel each person should take the path that feels most correct to him inwardly, and it will work as intended - that each day of the Holy Nights is a foreshadowing of the mood of the month corresponding with it.

The other confusion that one may also notice is that there are not 12 Holy Nights, but 13! There are even 14 if you count December 24th to January 6. While at first bewildering, a few explanations and remedies have come up – Just as we have 12 months of the year, but 13 moons each year, so too there are 12, but also 13 Holy Nights. One suggestion has been to have December 31st be the “hidden” night belonging to Christ instead of a constellation, just as there is a hidden zodiac sign known as Auriga that falls between Libra and Scorpio in the sky and is ignored by astrologers. Others say that January 6 should be regarded as a separate holiday and not part of the Holy Nights. Others skip Christmas and say that the Holy Nights begin the day after, or that Christmas Night, beginning at 6 pm is really the following day according to occult tradition. You may notice that the Holy Nights dates are often written 24/25, 25/26, 26/27, etc. This is because ideally they are celebrated in the evening for the following day. The occult day begins at 6 pm. This enables one to do preparatory work in the evening and take those soul impulses into one's sleep, where they are worked upon with the hierarchies and the dead, thus creating a more fruitful time after one awakens. So again, it's complicated, but as you know, it is best to simplify one's life, so just choose what feels right for you. *Blessings on your Holy Nights' endeavors!*



The Virtues and the Twelve Holy Nights Schedule

Fri, Dec. 25 4 pm Potluck Dinner	Capricorn: Courage <i>becomes the power to redeem</i>	Joanna Carey 4207 Neal Rd., Durham joannapcarey@gmail.com
Sat. Dec. 26 4 pm	Aquarius: Discretion <i>becomes the power of meditation</i>	Edward Schultdt at the home of Joanna Carey, 4207 Neal Rd. Durham 27705 joannapcarey@gmail.com
Sun. Dec. 27 2 pm	Pisces: Magnanimity <i>becomes love</i>	Mayses 5622 Brisbane Dr. Chapel Hill 919-929-1073
Mon. Dec. 28 4 pm	Aries: Devotion <i>becomes the power of sacrifice</i>	Kathleen Wright 4615 Greenglen Dr. Durham, 919-309-9622
Tues. Dec. 29 4 pm	Taurus: Equilibrium <i>becomes progress</i>	Catherine Philips at Joanna's (see contact info above)
Wed. Dec. 30 4 pm	Gemini: Perseverance <i>becomes faithfulness</i>	Marie Nordgren 3928 Hope Valley Rd. Durham, NC 919-544-9184
Thurs. Dec. 31 Part1 7:30 pm Part 2 – 3 Kings Prep 10pm-midnight	Cancer: Unselfishness <i>becomes catharsis</i>	Jon Lyerly 127 W. Union St. Hillsborough 336-263-7685
Fri. Jan. 1 4 pm	Leo: Compassion <i>becomes Freedom</i>	Ben and Jenny Bingham 208 Murray St. Hillsborough 919-214-4304
Sat. Jan. 2 4 pm	Virgo: Courtesy, tact of heart <i>becomes steadiness of feeling</i>	Tatiana Zybin 110 Twisted Ct. Hillsborough 919-241-4115
Sun Jan. 3 4 pm	Libra: Contentment/equanimity <i>becomes self-composure</i>	Joanna See above for contact info
Mon. Jan. 4 4 pm	Scorpio: Patience <i>becomes insight/understanding</i>	Diana Haynes at the home of Joanna Carey See contact info above
Tues. Jan. 5	Sagittarius: Control of Speech and thinking <i>becomes feeling for truth</i>	OPEN – please call Joanna if you are interested in hosting

Workshop with Kelly Calegar:

"Speaking to the Stars"

December 12 and 19th, 2015

12 noon- 5 pm

One or both classes can be attended

In the Brown Wing of EWS High School

6211 New Jericho Rd.

Chapel Hill, NC

Donation offering requested

In honor of the Divine Feminine, we will practice Eurythmy as a spiritual path of speaking to the stars – Striving toward commitment with the Spiritual Hierarchies, and the Crown of Virtue.



*The stars once spoke to man,
It is world destiny that they are silent
now.*

*To be aware of the silence can become
pain for earthly man.*

*But in the deepening silence, there
grows and ripens what man speaks of
the stars.*

*To be aware of this speaking can become
strength for Spiritual Man."*

~Rudolf Steiner

For more information, please contact Kelly Calegar at kcalegar@earthlink.net

Don't Miss the Shepherd's Play!
Friday, December 18 at 11 am
At ERUUF (Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship)
On Garrett Rd. in Durham



Scenes from the EWS Holiday Faire Nov. 21



Carol Kubik and Marie Nordgren



Maliya dips a candle



Carol Kubik's handwork



Cakewalking as Shannon plays guitar



More beautiful handwork for sale



So many choices!



EWS NEWS

An Invitation from the Foundation Studies

The Emerson Waldorf School Foundation Studies in Anthroposophy and the Arts Lecture and Weekend are open to all!

With Marke Levene and Barbara Richardson

Marke is a eurythmist, actor and businessman working on a world tour of a new mystery drama, Shakespeare play and symphonic eurythmy performance. Barbara is a eurythmist specializing in Eurythmy in the Workplace and is also Coordinator of the Foundation Studies Program of the Center for Anthroposophy.

Friday, December 4, 2015 7:30- 9:00 pm in the Richards Room of High school Lecture "Does Consciousness Evolve?" Does artistic activity arising from spiritual science give us insight into where we are as individuals in the general development of consciousness? We will look at how we unite our inner striving with the realities of contemporary culture, the culture we create on a daily basis.

Saturday, December 5, 2015 9:00 am- 3:30 pm (Richards Room) Foundation Studies continues:

9:00-9:45am Reflections from the evening lecture

10:00 - 11:00am Eurythmy in the style of Egypt, Greece, Rome, Medieval and Modern 11:00 12:00

Presentation on the Evolution of Consciousness in the Mystery Dramas 12:00 1:00pm Potluck Lunch

1:00 2:30 pm Projective Geometry Exercises in how life forces penetrate the physical world 2:30

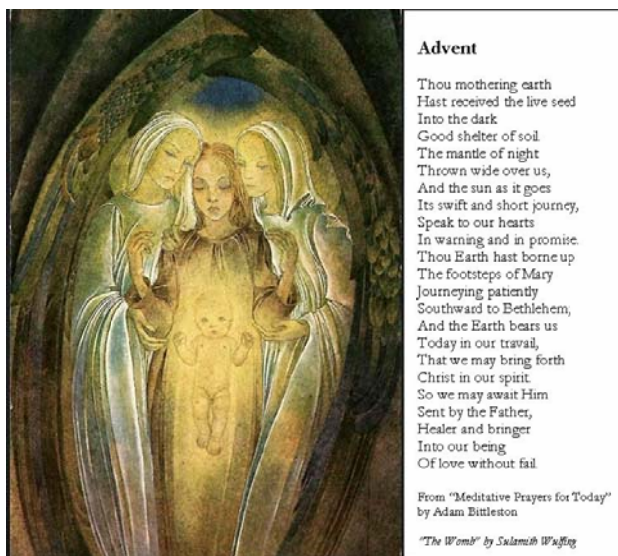
3:30 pm Final Conversation

Sliding scale fee: \$10-40. per session or \$20-80 for both sessions. Please Contact Jessica Meyers for registration info: jessicacmeyers@gmail.com

Really Free Clothing Swap in the Brown Wing

When: 1/9/2016 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Description: In the Brown Wing



Michael D'Aleo Talk on Media and Science

When: December 8th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Description: Michael D'Aleo will be focusing his talk on Middle School parents especially. Talking about media in students' lives as well as Waldorf Science.

Michael D'Aleo lectures nationally and internationally on the topics of science, education and environmental issues and is a founding member of the Saratoga Experiential Natural Science Research Institute (SENSRI) in Keene Valley, New York as the Director of Research. He was a co-founder of the high school at the Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs where he taught physical science and astronomy. Mr. D'Aleo is also an instructor of Waldorf School physical science teachers at The Center for Anthroposophy in Wilton New Hampshire as well as a guest teacher at various teacher training institutions and Waldorf Schools. He is the cofounder of, and leads the successful 6th, 7th and 8th grade science teacher training, Teaching Sensible Science.



Mr. D'Aleo has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Rutgers University where he graduated Summa cum Laude. He also holds a Master's degree in

education from Sunbridge College.

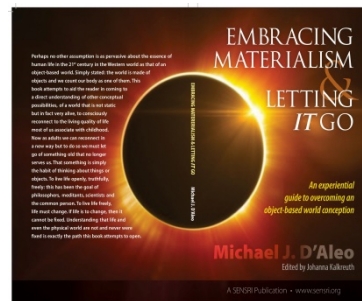
After completing his undergraduate studies, Mr. D'Aleo worked in design and development for Lutron Electronics, an electronics company in eastern Pennsylvania. As a result of his work for seven years with the company, Mr. D'Aleo is listed as an inventor on seventeen U.S. patents and various foreign patents as well. He was promoted to the position of Engineering Project Leader in charge of New Product Development. Mr. D'Aleo's main interest was to find solutions to technical problems that resulted in designs that were artistic and based on processes found in the natural world. Many of his patents were the direct result of this interest.

In 1991, Mr. D'Aleo became involved in education and research out of his strong experience of the interrelationship between the world of man, both technical and artistic, and the natural world. He has lectured internationally on the topics of science and education in various settings. Mr. D'Aleo is co-author of the book *Sensible Physics Teaching*, a guide for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade educators to teach physics in a manner relevant to the experience of the students.

Michael D'Aleo's new book is now available in print.

Embracing Materialism and Letting It Go: An experiential guide to overcoming an object-based world conception

To order a print copy e-mail info@sensri.org or download a free version by clicking the image on right.



Living Thinking - An experiential course with Michael D'Aleo

When: 12/30/2015 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Description: Session 2: Develop a practice for bringing Living Thinking into daily life.

Cost: \$400 * Each session forms a unit on its own and can be taken separately if you are not able to attend the full course. Some Eurythmy work will be included in each of these sessions.

Through his "Living Thinking" course Michael D'Aleo will be offering us the opportunity and guidance to really come to grips with intuitive thinking. Steiner realized that this way of thinking was humanities chance to break away from an increasingly materialistic world. He saw the Philosophy of Freedom as his one contribution to the world that would outlive everything else that he has offered.

Contact: Therisa Pienaar tpienaar@emersonwaldorf.org

STUDY GROUPS AND WORKING GROUPS

Christian Community Study Group, reading *The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*; meets Sundays 4-5:30; the group will be on hiatus until mid-January so that members may participate in the Advent and Holy Nights observances; meets at the home of Kathleen Wright, 4615 Greenglen Drive, Durham, NC; call 919-309-9622.

Cultural Group meets every other Thursday at 3:30 PM at the home of Joanna Carey to plan festivals and events; all interested persons are welcome to attend; RSVP joannapcarey@gmail.com

IANDS (International Association of Near Death Experiences)

the December our meeting will be on Thursday, December 17 at 7 PM at the Rhine Center, 2741 Campus Walk Ave., Building 500, Durham, NC 27705. We will be sharing NDE stories from people in our group. The meetings next year will be on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7PM and we will be having guest speakers present their experiences and insights from their NDEs. Contact Robert Mays for more information at 919-929-1073 or email at mays@ieee.org

Reading For the Dead Group- reading:

The Inner Nature of Man and the Life Between Death and Rebirth (Vienna April 9th-14th, 1914) by Rudolf Steiner; meets at the home of Joanna Carey 4207 Neal Road, Durham, NC from 7 PM- 9 PM every other Thursday; RSVP joannapcarey@gmail.com

Rose Cross Study Group meets Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 PM; reading; *The Book of Revelation and the Work of the Priest*; at the home of Judy Frey, 55207 Broughton, Chapel Hill; RSVP 919-928-8749 or email: damaris12@nc.rr.com

Threshold Care Group usually meets once a month on Mondays at the home of Jenny Bingham; call Jenny for more information at 919-241-4304 or email her at jennybingham7@gmail.com

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Other Groups in North Carolina

Asheville has two study groups:

Every other **Thursday night** from 7-9 pm. Reading: *The Christ Impulse and the Development of Consciousness*. This is a committed group with lively discussions on how Steiner books are applicable to our lives today. Reading in advance is preferred. Contact: Marie Davis [\(828\) 273-5647](tel:8282735647)

First Sunday of the month Study Group. Meets 3-7pm. Studying a lecture series on the Threefold Social Order. First hour: study of lecture presented by a member. Second hour: a personal sharing by another member related to work in the world or social questions. Followed by a pot luck for community building. Contact: Marie Davis [\(828\)273-5647](tel:8282735647)

Boone Study Group – meets Monday afternoons from 4-6PM, studying *How to Know Higher Worlds*; most members of this group are Biodynamic students of Hugh Courtney; group is led by Cindy Mahoney; contact her at bt13flyer@gmail.com or call her at 919-602-3358 or 828-297-3080

Clemmons (near Winston-Salem) has four Steiner/Anthroposophy Study Groups led by Sarah Putnam; contact Sarah for more information at 336-972-8243 or email her at sputnam01@att.net

Death of Beloved Teacher of Anthropospophy

We received the following notice from Robert Sardello about the passing of his wife, Cheryl:

At five a.m. on November 21, Cheryl Sanders-Sardello, my beloved wife and intimate partner in the endeavors of the School of Spiritual Psychology died.

Cheryl was in the intensive care unit of the hospital for nearly three weeks following suffering a pulmonary embolism and her heart stopping multiple times. She never regained consciousness.

A Memorial gathering will take place at 2 p.m. Central Time, on Sunday, December 6, at the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. Cheryl was a Fellow of the Institute; it is a place she loved dearly. Please stop, enter the Silence, enter heart-presence, and be with Cheryl at that time.

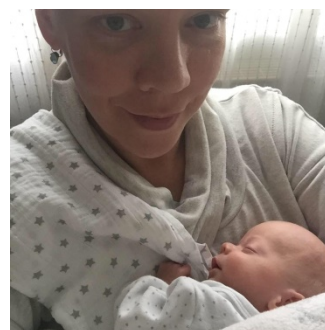
~ Robert



Cheryl Sanders-Sardello was the co-founder and co-director of the School of Spiritual Psychology (Greensboro, NC) and co-editor of Goldenstone Press. She was the administrative director of the School. She focused teaching and writing on the spiritual psychology of embodiment and sensing, the spiritual psychology of aging, and our spiritual connection with those who have died and the implications of those practices for the health of the social world. She contributed chapters to numerous books, including *Silence and Love and the Soul*. She was an independent teacher and scholar and has taught all over the U.S, Canada, and the U.K., as well as the Philippines and Australia. The Sardellos had recently moved to Texas where they had become instructors at the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture.

Congratulations to Laura Wilson on the Birth Of her First Child, Richard Felix Theodore

Many of our readers can fondly recall Laura Wilson, who was a very active member of our Steiner Community back in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Laura left our community to study sculpture in the UK (2004-2007). After completing her studies, she moved to Mannheim, Germany where she later got married. At the end of August, Laura gave birth to her first child, a son whom she named Richard Felix Theodore. The little fellow was born 11 weeks premature and had to remain in the hospital. Laura was finally able to bring him home on his due date, November 3. We wish Laura and her family all the best.



Community Thanksgiving at Linda Folsom's

Many thanks to Linda Folsom for hosting a Steiner Community gathering at her home on Thanksgiving.

Pictured on the left with their party hats are: back row: Robert Kwapien, Margaret Heath, Donna (Linda's housemate); Front Row: Nancy Willson, Mark Eisen, Linda Folsom, Martha and Dirk Kelder. Not pictured, but in attendance were: Joy Kwapien, Diana Haynes and Kathleen Wright.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DELEGATES CONFERENCE: "CHRIST IN YOU, CHRIST IN THE WORLD"

By Martha Kelder

I recently attended the annual North American Christian Community Delegates Conference from November 5th to the 7th in Toronto as the delegate from North Carolina. This event took place in the Christian Community Church which is very near the Toronto Waldorf School. Like New York City, the Toronto community is one of the oldest in North America, its roots beginning in the 1950's. Rev. Jonah Evans is its 37- year old priest who has just been there for two years and already has brought much new life to their previously struggling community. He asked me especially to send greetings to the people in our congregation while honoring the special enthusiasm for the Christian Community that lives among us. Almost forty people attended the conference, with the majority coming from Toronto, Montreal and California. The 14 main congregations were represented along with two affiliates, North Carolina and Montreal.

The theme of this year's conference was "Christ in You, Christ in the World". The organizers wrote a beautiful invitation to draw participants to the conference:

"The foundation and center of our individual life and togetherness is the living Christ. It is toward Him that we strive. It is in Him that our hearts unite. It is through His presence that we are nourished. The challenge of our time, however, is to find him not only in our hearts but in others and in the world. It is of utmost importance for the world that human hearts experience the Christ! As we look inward, it is also vital that we also look outward. One could even say that the most important task of the striving Christian today is to see how the effects of the living Christ work in the world and in our evolution. How and where do we see Christ in the world? Is He only in us and behind the altar? What about in larger community life, politics and current events? Can we see traces of His being everywhere around us? It is of utmost importance for human souls that Christ is recognized in the World! This journey, the work of consciously coming to know for ourselves how Christ's healing presence works in our hearts, how His power comes alive in communities, how to become co-workers with His healing work on earth, this is the core mission of life. Enlivening and deepening this mission is the theme of our conference."

During this three day conference, there were three talks, many large and small group discussions, along with singing, painting and Eurythmy.



Rev. Jonah Evans spoke the first evening about "Christ in You, Sensing the Archetype ". He shared that even though an archetype is never achievable, if I can imagine it internally, then it makes it possible for me to recognize it in the world. He drew a large tree on the board to describe the archetype of Christ being drawn down into the roots and branches of the world. He asked us, "How can we have a living rootedness as well as be affirming, open and loving to all? He also mentioned that, at the Christmas conference, Rudolf Steiner had spoken about the need for having the greatest degree of openness combined with the deepest possible esotericism. He spoke about the importance of responding to the needs of the world, by developing the ability to see and recognize the spirit of Christ at work in the other. He mentioned a couple of examples

of perceiving the working of Christ in the world; in the story of Jonah, there is a profound transformation that Jonah goes through inside the whale, by being willing to give up his own will for the sake of another, thus he can be better able to serve the higher will. We can also see the power of Christ at work in the inner transformative journey of the Prodigal son as well in the profound insights that we are all capable of which change our lives.

The second talk was given by Robert Massoud, from the Toronto community, who spoke very poignantly about his personal journey, having been born in Lebanon and finding the Christian Community in Canada. He is selling olive oil from Lebanon as a peace offering to the world. Olive oil, he said, has been instrumental in the spread of Christianity throughout the world. He was very direct in stating that the Christian Community does the "Christ in You" very well. But his question to us was, "How can the Christian Community do the 'Christ in the World' better? The Christian Community is excellent at offering the vertical experience of a meditative connection with Christ at the altar, but the horizontal gesture of reaching out to others in the world is, by far, not developed enough. There are certain stages in developing a social awareness. Egotism generally comes before Ego consciousness. Because we are stronger individuals now, it can be more difficult to achieve a sense of community, in marriages also. In a following discussion, we realized that, by virtue of the fact that the Christian Community is such a fine vessel for our own inner development, it actually works on as a potent force to benefit society and the world naturally. We can bring the "Peace" that we receive at the altar out into the world.

We then moved into, perhaps the most significant aspect of the conference, which was to examine ways to inspire congregations to develop the skills to respond to the needs of their community as well as to the world at large. If we listen to our own social ideals as well our passions in responding to the suffering in the world, and gather together to identify commonly shared social interests among us, we can join our forces together and initiate a project (s) in our community that could address and meet profound needs right here in front of us! We discovered a practical formula that was truly inspiring! When individuals with a passion for social change join with individuals with special talents, capabilities and skills, we can accomplish so much in our community and in the world! The formula is :

Idealistic passions joined with skilled capabilities create a shared expertise and winning combination to successfully meet the needs of our world!!!

Our task is finding the impulses in our members, our unique concerns about the world, along with individuals with special practical skills that we can then begin to shape as an outreach program to help others. Rev. Michael Brewer spoke about another successful way to start initiatives; when an individual says, "I want to do _____ and could you help me do it? A beautiful model for this is the highly successful Prison Outreach Project, which was started by just one person and has now spread to over 700 prisons in North America, bringing Anthroposophical books and ideas to inmates. Any of this creativity can awaken Christ in us and in the world! These initiatives could be described as Sacred Ventures or Sacred Intention. Even small initiatives can become great! One can behold the spirit of Christ at work in these activities!

In addition, the following ideas were suggested to help a congregation get started with this process:

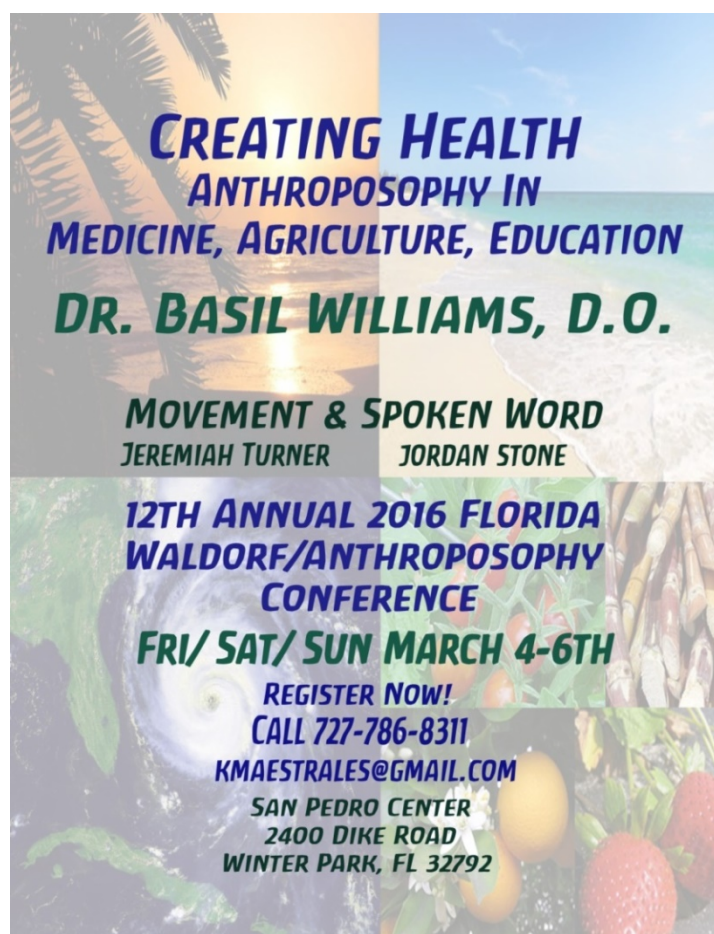
- 1) Start a monthly prayer group ("PrayerCare" is my word for it) to attend to the immediate needs of its members**
- 2) Plan for a major retreat for the members of the Carrying Group and/or the whole congregation to galvanize support to focus on envisioning the future of the church.**
- 3) Initiate gatherings about the history of the Christian Community, the Sacraments and their place and meaning in our lives.**

4) Educate and inspire our members and friends about the possibility of giving a legacy to the church in the future. This has proved to be a tremendous help to our movement in the past.

Rev. Oliver Steinrueck then spoke on the theme "How is the movement working to meet Christ in the world?" He shared some profound information about the consequences that arose out of the way the founding of the Christian Community occurred. There were three Lutheran ministers who were around Steiner at the beginning, Friedrich Rittelmeyer, Emil Boch and Johannes Geyer. The first two were especially aligned with Esoteric Christianity and Anthroposophy, whereas Johannes Geyer was an extremely popular minister with his congregation, very sociable and easy to speak with. However, he ultimately could not commit to becoming a priest and therefore was not present at the founding of the church. This was a deep disappointment to Steiner. He had envisioned a religious movement that would have a great appeal to a broad spectrum of the population that would eventually draw people into the Anthroposophical Society as well. The missing "social" element that Geyer would have brought, will now have to be very consciously developed in our congregations into the future. Developing the horizontal gesture means bringing warmth and love for everyone around us by taking an interest in their lives. Christ is found in the vertical as well as the horizontal. Both together are vehicles for Christ's spirit to incarnate into the world.

During his talk, Rev. Steinrueck told us of the passing of Rev. Robert Patterson on October 26. Robert had been a lenker in the church for decades.

He also announced that the next delegates' meeting will be held in Chicago, November 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2016.



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Wishing all of you a joyous, blessed holiday season! We hope to see you at the many Advent and Holy Nights celebrations during the next month as we prepare our souls for the coming year.

With Love and peace,
The RSB-NC Board:

Robert Mays
Will Hicks
Robin Haynes
Judy Frey
Diana Haynes
Ron Evans
Kathleen Wright
Tatiana Zybin



The Michael Messenger is the monthly newsletter of the Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC), located in Chapel Hill, NC. The RSB-NC is a branch of the Anthroposophical Society whose national headquarters are in Ann Arbor, Michigan and its international headquarters are in Dornach, Switzerland.

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Website: www.anthroposophync.org on the websites you can find links for our calendar, application for membership to our branch, application to join our email list-serve and much more. Check it out!

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