

Daring to Let Their Spirits Soar



Coming from 20 states, 270 women gathered in Pennsylvania and Kansas this April for the biennial Women in Conversation retreats co-sponsored by Mennonite Women USA and Laurelville Mennonite Retreat Center. With the

theme, Daring to Let Our Spirits Soar, speaker Carolyn Holderread Heggen pointed out that social scientists have found that for women, “our very conception of self is rooted in a sense of connection and intimacy.” She explained that “healthy friendships and circles of support can be gifts of grace in our life” Heggen concluded her remarks by giving women suggestions for ways to better use their innate gifts for connection and intimacy to develop transformative, grace-filled relationships with one another. Some of her suggestions were for women to listen deeply to each other; to offer encouragement to one another to find our authentic, personal voices; and to hold our friendships with more respect and intimacy. During each retreat, four sessions and five workshops were available for women to attend. Music and worship leaders Becky Degan and Jenny Shrag were at Laurelville and Wichita, respectively. **Plans are underway for Women in Conversation 2010.** 📍

Some responses from participants:

“The Christian fellowship of women is beautiful and we were encouraged in spiritual growth (we had fun too).”

“I am so challenged to live with more gratitude as an intentional friend.”

“I’ve never been on a retreat with just women. It’s been a blessing and opened my eyes to needs and gifts we have.”

“This is my 3rd Women in Conversation weekend. Again I have been nourished, encouraged and challenged in my journey.”

Becky Degan and her son, Matthew, take some time to play together at the Women in Conversation retreat at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in April, 2008.

Photo by Norah Wolthus

This page highlights news from MW USA. Its mission is to resource women’s groups and individuals as we nurture our life in Christ, study the Bible, utilize our gifts, hear each other and engage in mission and service.

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