

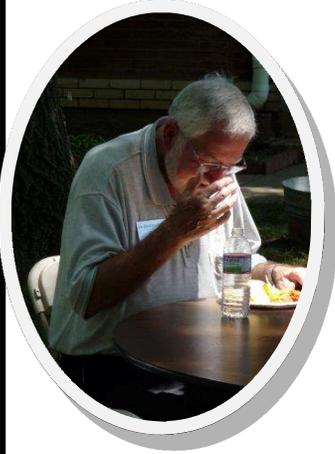
Words of Hope

March 2016 Volume 20 Number 1
Established in 1996



Advancing Dawn

Dear Friends of Sanctuary of Hope,



Welcome to the Easter Season, the risen Jesus **beckons** to me! We have been open to **his mercy** during Lent, and now we rejoice in his encouragement to go forth and make a difference in life. It's time to come out of our cocoon, like the butterfly, and spread our wings in reaching others, who long for affirmation, for encouragement, for love. Who me? Yes, padre, you! But it is so easy to get lost in my own comforts, my own easy chair, and my own way of looking at the world. **Help me**, Jesus, to stretch my concerns, my small world, and see there is a place that I want to go, but have been so fearful, inadequate. So I think. "But for God all things are possible", all things, not just some things, but **all things.**" (Matthew 19: 26)

Do I really want to get close to Jesus, not just know about him, study all the truths of faith, learn more facts, but really come close to Him? "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." (Mark 12: 34) The scribe that repeated the greatest commandment that Jesus said to him heard these words spoken to him. So, you and I are not far from the Kingdom of God either. So are we ready to **practice loving God** with all our hearts, minds, souls, strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves?

We invite you to come and visit good ole Sanctuary of Hope. Come and walk the **Labyrinth** that will help you let go of the **baggage of life** and put on the **new clothes** of salvation and restoration, committed to living out one's gifts! Come on down and visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, or just take a walk down one of the trails, or sit on a **bench and be still**. View the beauty of colors in the gardens of flowers and vegetables. It's the springtime of the body and the soul! **Bring someone** in your family, a friend, a neighbor, and show them this sacred site, from the statue that overlooks I-70. O, Yes, if you want to give a hand to offer some hours to volunteer for the many **on-going projects** (Jeff's term) that need to be done, just let us know.

Some of our on-going projects are the following:

1. **Adopting** one of the vegetable or garden areas to care for them, or at least help to maintain them occasionally.
2. **Helping** with the preparation for meals for larger retreat groups here.
3. **Helping** with the dishes and clean up after groups, and/or individuals.
4. **Painting** some of our benches, or windows, or trim, or inside walls, rooms, halls, cabinets, outside buildings or structures.
5. **Cleaning** rooms, taking out recyclables.

Yes, we are in need here of on-going support, not only financially, but more important now doing the **everyday tasks**. Yes, whatever you choose, do it with gusto! I will be completing 70 years of my life here on earth, and whatever I choose, may it bring me **closer to Jesus and one another**, in honoring my own giftedness and abilities.

Love, prayers and gratitude,
Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Dennis Wait

Fr. Dennis Wait, Director



Are you ever amazed at the myriad ways in which Christ works in our lives? He works quietly, daily, to provide a strong foundation for our next stepping stone. My earliest years were spent on the farm where I had been born. From a young age I kept close station by my mother who rarely spoke but showed me “how things were to be done.” Learning my first prayers, cutting out paper dolls, watching her make lye soap in the back yard, gathering eggs together in the chicken house, embroidering my first tea towels, singing for enjoyment or as a remedy for skinning my knees—all were precious moments in her presence.

As I grew, my father’s chores fascinated me as they were so different from each other. I stood beside him as he sat on a three-legged wooden stool and milked one of our cows whose name was simply, “Red.” If she showed even the slightest agitation, he would gently say, “Now, Red.” He let me watch him dig holes with a post-hole digger and ride in the wheat bin to tell him the level of incoming wheat. Another privilege was tip-toeing cautiously among our five hundred baby chicks in the brooder house as my father replenished their feed and water supply. In wintertime I often glanced up from my perch in front of the pot-bellied stove to see him come in the north door, one arm carrying a bucket of coal.

Christ was at work in me through my parents, loving me, nurturing faith, teaching virtues, and leading me into union with Him. Remembering what I learned in childhood, my sense of gratitude grows deeper with passing years as I keep alive the Holy Spirit in me and invite others to take God out to our weary world. The idea of a spiritual springtime invites me to till the soil of my heart to move my faith into a better understanding of grace and forgiveness, kindness and love .

Mindy’s Minute

As we listened to the beautiful harp music in the chapel at the beginning of Lent, I noticed the bright light coming in the window at an angle and making me squint. The sometimes painful and often freeing Lenten journey through growing self-awareness began to parallel in my mind to the ways we can respond to Light coming through the window.

I never like to discover where I was or am in the wrong or to see my own still-rough edges. However, Lent has been a unique annual opportunity to risk the discomfort of facing my own brokenness because the promise of resurrection looms for us as the Light at the end of this soul-echoing tunnel.

**Squinting Light
The light blinds me.
I squint and scowl.
My temple aches.
I don’t want to see.**

**Redirects my gaze.
To see what broke,
Not thrown away,
But now can mend,
‘tis but healing stroke.**

**At first, I say
It’s the light’s fault.
Too bright, aimed wrong,
You caused me to stray.**

**So hope, not fear
Comes from the light.
It clarifies,
Pointing ointment here.**

**Soon, see I must
The dust ignored,
The tie I broke,
How I have lost trust.**

**Not to dissect,
Not to reject,
Light will shine
So love will reflect.**

**It hurts at first
Poking at my
Sensitive worth,
Mirrors the worst.**

**Rays stop to note.
You highlight Your
Image in us,
The true selves You wrote.
Thanks be to God.**

**All clouded haze,
Panic raining,
Till sun peeks through,**

**Squinting toward the coming Light with you,
Mindy**

One of our March gardens!



By Jeff Stock

We are so hopeful the grounds here add to the meditative experience of visitors, stir imaginations and memories, and lift spirits. Some of us are compelled to first bow our heads, stoop, and kneel in prayer at the various religious shrines. Many of these are flanked with flowers and shrubs.

The multi-taskers are invited to include in these reflections a lasting prayer. An ancient proverb states that “one who plants a tree cares for others”. The maturation and majesty of the towering testimony of God is begun by first lowering oneself to the task not knowing whether they might see this growth.

1 Corinthians 6-8, “ [Paul and Apollos God's Fellow Workers](#) ...[6](#) I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. [7](#) So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. [8](#) Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor....

Our 33 acres afford great opportunity to join as one of “God’s Fellow Workers” and add to the landscape. Our Facilities Committee is ripe with openings new members could impact the future landscape, planning and planting of projects here at Sanctuary of Hope. The video and pictures of our website only hint at the views afforded to visitors who walk this Holy Ground.

- ◆ New vegetable garden area
- ◆ Labyrinth with self-pollinating fruit trees donated by the Sulit family, hydrangeas, day lilies, tulips
- ◆ Ed Deane’s Memorial tree
- ◆ New landscaped bed with crabapple trees and mugo pines, cherry laurels
- ◆ Rose bushes donated by Vivina Strathman
- ◆ Soon to be added: Holy Trinity boulder water fountain in center of labyrinth and more benches
- ◆ Low voltage landscape lighting





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Return Service Requested

Come experience our new labyrinth



There are many ways to pray while walking a labyrinth. You can focus on experiencing connection with God, transformation & personal hope. Walking inward and returning out is a metaphor for going deeper into our own hearts with God, receiving/discovering what we need, and returning to the world empowered to live out our callings for the world.



Saturday, June 11
Hopefest
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Come join us for a look at
your retreat center. Food
& refreshments provided.



Save the Date
Sanctuary of Hope's
11th Annual Hope Benefit
Dinner, Dance & Auction
To be held on Saturday,
October 15, 2016 at the Abdallah Shrine
Overland Park 5:30-10:00 pm p.m.