



*We embrace the process of transformation in Christ both in ourselves and in others, through the practice of Centering Prayer. Contemplative Outreach is a network of communities and individuals seeking the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit and to contribute to the renewal of the Christian contemplative tradition through the practice of Centering Prayer.* Vision Theological Principal 1

Dear Fellow Mystics,

A beautiful new day started the new year on January 4<sup>th</sup> at Grant Park Meditation Center for an Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop. Carl McColman presented stirring sessions that inspired many experienced as well as new folks to deepen their contemplative practice. A new Centering Prayer group grew from the workshop and now meets weekly at Grant Park. We are very grateful we have begun a strong friendship with this Buddhist community.

Three of our Atlanta contemplative authors--Lerita Coleman Brown, Stuart Higginbotham, and Carl McColman--inspired a standing-room-only crowd as they read their poetry and excerpts from their books at Mary & Martha's Place at St. Dunstan's Episcopal on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Rebecca Parker guided the fishbowl dialogue where participants commented "it was an incredible resource and a gift," "the places where the words spoken connected within themselves to produce a teaching and a knowing" "I had the sense of the presence of Spirit." They also noticed the diversity of gender, race, age and groups from several different traditions that had gathered. There was so much joy to have been a part of it; they hoped very much we would offer more. More is coming!

February 8<sup>th</sup> Dr. Lerita Coleman Brown presented a workshop "Clearing the Heart for the New Decade." Hosted by Massage Associates of Atlanta Wellness Center, the session was based on Lerita's book, *When the Heart Speaks, Listen: Discovering Inner Wisdom*. If you want to find out more about Lerita's wise ministry, you can find her at [www.peaceforhearts.com](http://www.peaceforhearts.com).

We are pleased to announce our new administrator at Contemplative Outreach Ltd is Mary Jane Yates from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She has been a part of Contemplative Outreach for 12 years, serving as a prayer group facilitator, Introductory Workshop presenter and retreat leader. She is well-versed in collaborative leadership and community development. While a Canadian citizen she grew up in Nigeria, West Africa and has a passion for cross-cultural and diversity issues. Please show Mary Jane our warmest southern welcome.

We are delighted that Centering Prayer will be taught by our own Claudia Campbell from Big Canoe at Young Life retreats at Ignatius House Feb 10-13 and Feb 18 -21 at Santa Cruz, California. Thank you, Claudia, for spreading Centering Prayer through Young Life.

A great opportunity is coming soon: **Brie Stoner**, graduate of the Living School, will present "**Still and Still Moving: Exploring the Intersection of Contemplation, Creativity, and Action**" at Mary and Martha's Place 7 am-9 pm Fri. Feb. 28 & 10 am-3pm Sat. Feb. 29 located at St Dunstan's, 4393 Garmon Rd NW, Atlanta 30327. Register at [maryandmarthasplace.com](http://maryandmarthasplace.com).

We are excited that Joe Rich will be offering our **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Morning of Prayer** combined with our worldwide Contemplative Outreach **United Day of Prayer on March 21<sup>st</sup>** at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 13560 Cogburn Rd, Milton, GA 30004. Let us know you are coming to this free and inspiring morning at our website under at <https://www.contemplativeoutreachatlanta.com/book-online/7th-annual-lenten-united-in-prayer-day> so we can prepare for you.



**Ilia Delio**, OSF, is coming to Atlanta for two important events in April. She is a Franciscan Sister and American theologian specializing in science and religion with interests how evolution, physics, and neuroscience relate to theology.

Her free Catherine of Siena Lecture “Seeking Wholeness in an Age of Fragments” will be

**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8:30 pm in Cannon Chapel at Emory**, 1531 Dickey Drive, Atlanta 30322. This talk will focus on wholeness in nature, the rise of the individual and the disconnections that have ensued. Sponsored by the Aquinas Center, registration is free but required at <https://aquinas.emory.edu/calendar.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D132789460>.

Sr. Ilia will explore “Teilhard’s notion of Christification in an Unfolding Universe” on **Friday, April 17, 2020 from 9 am to 1 pm at The Cathedral of St. Philip**, Child Hall, 2744 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305. To order tickets, go to [https://www.cathedralbookstore.org/p-4205-purchase-tickets-for-ilia-delio-christifying-the-universe.aspx?mc\\_cid=dde6ea8935&mc\\_eid=fc44dbe4ae](https://www.cathedralbookstore.org/p-4205-purchase-tickets-for-ilia-delio-christifying-the-universe.aspx?mc_cid=dde6ea8935&mc_eid=fc44dbe4ae)

We have four Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshops planned this spring. If you or someone you know has not had the privilege of attending one, encourage them to go. They are listed on page 3.

Each quarter Contemplative Outreach Atlanta holds coordinating team meetings for all members to check in, collaborate, and share to strengthen Centering Prayer groups. **We need people to offer their venue** from different locations to include all areas of our community. Hope to see you Mar.8<sup>th</sup>.

Since last fall six contemplative leaders from northern Georgia (Revolutionary Contemplatives) have been planning together to connect our northern Georgia contemplative inter-spiritual community by bridging usual boundaries: to celebrate and collaborate with our mutually contemplative sisters and brothers. Our members Carl McColman, Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham, Rev. Cynthia Hizer, Dr. Lerita Coleman Brown, Rev. Rebecca Parker, and I look forward to a burgeoning of Spirit in the new activities we are planning in May at Camp Mikell and September at Ignatius House. More information to come.

This spring we are beginning our Mentorship Training Program for new commissioned presenters of the Introductory Workshop. The program involves four three-hour meetings with an additional practicum of presenting the conferences at a workshop. Mentors and mentees journey together in a process that bonds us and strengthens us to transmit the method of Centering Prayer. We will set up our series of conferences by coordinating our schedules soon. Last year we welcomed three new mentees of the program who are now commissioned and actively presenting Introductory Workshops: Ken Hatcher, Marion Kaple, and Carl McColman. If you are interested, contact me.

Lent is upon us: May we change our minds and attitudes (repent) and believe the Good News.

Peace, love, and prayer,

*Maggie*

### Calendar of Events

**Spread the word to your friends and group members to join us.**

Register on our website at <https://www.contemplativeoutreachatlanta.com> under "Upcoming Events."

#### Quarterly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2020:

Sundays – 1-3 pm March 8, June 14, Sept 6, Dec 6. **If you can offer your place of worship as a venue for our meeting, please contact us at [coatlantageorgia@gmail.com](mailto:coatlantageorgia@gmail.com) .**

#### Days of Reflection

- ❖ **Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020–Ignatius House–Revolutionary Contemplatives** Registration TBA
- ❖ **Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020 – Dia de los Muertos Day of Reflection at Hazelbrand Farm** Registration TBA

#### Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshops

- ❖ **Saturday, February 15, 2020** – 9 am to 3 pm at St Mary and St Martha of Bethany, Buford
- ❖ **Sunday Mar 1, 2020** -9-4 Ignatius House Intro to CP workshop–Register at [bit.ly/coc032020](http://bit.ly/coc032020)
- ❖ **Saturday March 14, 2020** – 9 am to 3 pm at Woodstock Community Church
- ❖ **Saturday April 18, 2020** – 9 am to 3 pm at Chestnut Ridge Christian Church, Marietta
- ❖ **Saturday May 30, 2020** – 9 am to 3 pm at Cherry Log Christian Church in Cherry Log, GA

#### Retreats

- ❖ **May 14 to 16, 2020** – Camp Mikell Conference Center, Toccoa, Registration TBA
- ❖ **July 17 to 19, 2020** - Ignatius House- Centering Prayer, Mindful Walking, and Yoga
- ❖ **October 28 to Nov 1, 2020** - 5 Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat Monastery of the Holy Spirit – To register contact Patti Wilson at (770) 760-0959 or [retreat@trappist.net](mailto:retreat@trappist.net)
- ❖ **May 12-16, 2021** – 5 Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA. To register Patti Wilson at 770) 760-0959 or [retreat@trappist.net](mailto:retreat@trappist.net)
- ❖ **November 7-12, 2021** – 5 Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat at Ignatius House.



Vow of Nonviolence  
January 1, 2020



Book Signing  
January 12, 2020  
Mary & Martha's Place

Be still and know that I am God. Ps 46:10

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

*"You don't have to create the beauty—you've got the beauty. You don't have to create the freedom—you got it. You don't have to create the image of God in you—you have it. You don't have to win over God's love—you have more than you know what to do with. You don't have to become more beautiful—because nothing could be more beautiful than your own, particular uniqueness."* Thomas Keating

Contemplative Outreach Atlanta is a chapter of  
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Contemplative Outreach Atlanta

Contact us at

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Find a Centering Prayer group, read our newsletters, and see what is coming soon.

