PILGRIMAGE: JOURNEYING WITH GOD

January 2013

Dear Ladies of Leacock Presbyterian Church:

The calendar says January, and the weather is possibly snowy or dreary, but definitely cold. Sounds like a perfect time to start thinking about a beautiful spring weekend with your sisters in Christ, right?

Believe it or not, it is time to plan for our annual Women's Retreat on April 26-28, 2013 at the Tuscarora Inn and Retreat Center, and this letter is to encourage you all to prayerfully consider joining us.

This year's retreat, which will again be led by the very gifted Susan Currie, is all about being on a journey with Christ, a "pilgrimage." This is a perfect time to think about your own life's journey – what brought you to Christ, how He travels alongside you now, and how He is waiting for you at the end!

Our Scripture passage also brings to mind wonderful images of peace, refreshment, and finding strength in our relationships with Christian women – "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion" (Psalm 84:5-7).

If you have never attended one of these retreats, or you have been saying "I'll go next year," this letter is specifically for you. I've been in your spot, and I had all of my excuses ready – I have a lot going on with my family, I have a lot going on at work, the house would collapse if I left for two days, and the ever popular "I don't want to be the youngest one there!" And when I finally went on my first retreat, I thought, "Why didn't I do this sooner?"

For those of you who have attended retreats in the past, please share your experiences with the ladies in our church, in your family and your friends. Please invite them to share in the spiritual and physical refreshment that we have come to know from these special weekends!

There is a Chinese proverb that states "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Pray about this weekend, consider taking that first step, and have faith that God will travel the 999+ miles to meet you!

For the planning team,

Chrísty Kealey

"Pilgrimage"--a word that invites us into a journey, resonate with images of significant places, special memories, and shared experiences. It's a journey we make with others who become companions of the soul along the way.

Join us this weekend as we journey together to Tuscarora, surrounded by the beauty of springtime on the Delaware and find there the One who is our journeying companion, and our journey's end and home!

Susan Currie will return as our retreat leader, and our relaxed schedule will include teaching as well as time for reflection, individually and in small groups, some free time simply to relax in the lovely grounds, and our traditional Saturday night movie!

The Details

When:	Friday April 26 th through Sunday, April 28 th .
Where:	Tuscarora Inn in Mount Bethel, PA
Lodging*:	Cottage - \$200.00 per person
	Riverside Manor (motel-style) - \$235.00 per person
Deposit*:	Cottage - \$100; Riverside Manor - \$118

Rates cover 2 nights lodging – double occupancy - and five meals served family style in Tuscarora's dining room.

*Based on increases in rates at Tuscarora and changes in payment policies, you'll note that – with great reluctance - we have had to increase the retreat fee and also must request 50% of the total with your registration.

Please return the bottom of this page with your deposit <u>no later than</u> January 27th to either Barb Erdmanis or Pam Kemper.

Name: Email:

Room Type (circle one) Cottage/ Riverside Manor

Roommate:______ or Don't Care _____

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs... They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. Psalm 84:5-7