

NEAL Notes

September 2009



NEAL 2009 - and what an amazing weekend it was! God is good – All the time! And all the time – God is good! Grace Abounds – All Around! And All Around – Grace Abounds! NEAL 2009 was our first year at The Marist House in Framingham, Massachusetts – a move after the past fifteen years at Merrimack College in North Andover. Some of the comments of what was liked best or a memorable moment about the weekend from 2009 NEAL Attendees:

- The number one rule of hospitality is “Others First”
- Curtis’ presentation and suggestions
- Enjoyed having all activities and sleep areas under “one roof”
- The joyfulness of singing and being able to share your faith
- Learned a lot about living our faith – daring to go outside the box and take risks
- Friends, fellowship, fun, spiritual renewal
- Annie Britton, Eric and the music ministry was great
- Good library and book selection
- Meeting a fellow mission camper
- Important to be more open to welcoming new folks at church
- Communion celebration
- Small group discussion
- Being used by God to do his work

- Evangelism is “doing the Gospel”
- Bedtime conversations
- A lot of people participation in worship
- A peaceful meditation room

The Rev. Curtis Brown, our keynote speaker, thanks “all of the NEAL organizers and participants for a great weekend of sharing together in God’s good work here in New England.”

Eric and Annie “had a hoot facilitating music for NEAL this year. The willingness of folks to learn new music and to enthusiastically join in warmed our hearts. We look forward to next year with NEAL.”

Hospitality! Father Daniel Homan in his book, *Radical Hospitality* says: “Hospitality has an inescapable moral dimension to it. It is not a mere social grace; it is a spiritual and ethical issue. It is an issue involving what it means to be human. All of our talk about hospitable openness doesn’t mean anything if people continue to be tossed aside.”

Announcements

●●●meetings ●●●news ●●●meetings ●●●news ●●●meetings ●●●news



NEAL 2010

“Fueling the Flame of Faith”

August 6-8, 2010

**The Marist House
Framingham, MA**

The first meeting of the NEAL 2010 Planning Committee will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the Putnam UMC in Putnam, CT at 9:30 a.m. Contact Kathi Peterson if you would like to attend.

●●●Missing Lens Found!

Debi’s eyeglass lens went to Maine for a vacation and went on this trip without telling her! The lens ended up in one NEAL attendees’ bag and was found a week later. “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind – but now I see!”

●●●*NEAL Polo Shirts* are still available. A Christmas gift? A shirt for next year? The Assembly of the Laity Polo Shirt comes in various colors. Check out the “downloadable” form and information at NEAL’s website. The polo shirt is also “modeled” by members of the 2009 NEAL Media Team in our group picture!

●●●*NEAL Alumni* were celebrated at NEAL. In keeping with our theme of “radical hospitality,” Sara Parker received a Welcome Mat – this was Sara’s 25th year of attending NEAL! Yvonne Duncanson celebrated 10 years and received a sugar bowl and creamer. And – you can invite the following to come to your house with their new rubber gloves and help you clean your bathroom as they celebrate 5 years of coming to NEAL: Catherine Bryson, Karen Glover, Sharon Newey, Diane Shattuck, and Doug Taylor!

●●●**2009 NEAL GROUP PICTURE** is now on NEAL’s website. Check it out!

●●●**2009 NEAL Attendee List** has an incorrect email address listed for Debi Henry. The correct address for her is debraleighhenry@yahoo.com. Please update this record. If you have a change in your contact information, please contact David Howe, Registrar.

●●●**“Radical Hospitality” in your church?** Does your church have a story? Best practice in hospitality? Share your story with others in the November NEAL Notes! Email laityrus@yahoo.com by October 15th.

●●●**Just a thought!** “Christian beliefs are living convictions which give shape to actual lives and actual communities.” James McClendon wrote, “the only relevant critical examination of Christian beliefs may be one which begins by attending to lived lives.” We “get the picture” of Christian hospitality as we see it lived out by a witness, a person who truly embodies the gospel. Who is that in your life?

*New England
Assembly of the Laity*

www.assemblyofthelaity.com



Next NEAL Notes –
November 1, 2009