

2022 Fall Newsletter

# God is Spoken of Here

Bethany Retreat Center | Life Line Pregnancy & Infant Services | Direct Services | Youth Programs

## Young People Who Care - 50 years of Passing it On

***It only takes a spark .... I want to Pass it on! - Sr. Suzanne Thibault, C.A.***

Is your heart singing? For anyone who recognizes the words above I bet you are!! Let me tell you a story ... This summer I traveled to Vanceburg, KY for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Young People Who Care's first trip of service. It is a story that you would love. Here is my story....

Sr. Therese Dush, a Mercy Sister from the Diocese Erie of Pennsylvania, taught vacation bible school at the Glen Springs chapel in the early summer of 1971. During this week she fell in love with the children, the families and the beauty of Salt Lick. A deep desire to return grew in her heart and spirit. Before leaving the area, she asked the Glenmary priest serving in Vanceburg, Fr. Pat O'Donnell, if she could return with a youth choir and conduct a week-long revival at the same location. Fr. Pat agreed to the request.



*Sr. Therese in her care, packed and ready to go to KY for the first time. (1971 YPWC archives)*

Sr. Therese went home to Sharon and together with a group of high school students conducted a clothing and food drive for Lewis County, KY. She traveled back to Vanceburg with these items accompanied by some of her high school students. In the summer of 1972 Sr. Therese led her first group of young people to Glen Springs to offer a revival. Some of these students even had musical ability. Driving in she could not remember exactly where the Glen Springs Chapel was located. There was a young boy walking along Salt Lick carrying his "Frogging" fork. Sr. Therese stopped him to ask directions. Thankfully, Jack Ginn, knew where to direct her. This first week of visitations, small work projects and evening revivals on the hill was sufficiently successful to begin an annual tradition from 1972-2022 to beyond!



*Charlie Kinney - 1976*

Over the next few years, the commitment to the community along Salt Lick developed. Relationships grew deeper and lasting bonds were formed. The program expanded from one week to four weeks each summer. By 1975 there were 4 groups of 50 youth coming for a week. The groups prepared for the trip by studying the Catholic Bishop's Pastoral letter, *This Land is Home to Me*. The core team would stay over the weekend between groups. As the new groups arrived on Sunday afternoon their first experience was a visit to Hazel, Noah, and Charlie Kinney's barn on Toller Holler. They were introduced to the remarkable spirit of hospitality and the richness of Appalachian Culture. Noah and Charlie told stories and played their fiddle and guitar. Hazel welcomed every person and had them sign their guest book. The guest books (plural) were filled with visitors from all over the United States and even some foreign countries. Groups from the Diocese of Erie continue to travel to Vanceburg for at least two weeks each summer.

## *50 years later YPWC Service Program is a circle of care between those who have and those who need!!* Mike Girty, Service Director

Covid 19 continues to make us adjust our plans and our lives. This summer we found a new experience for service groups. Three High School groups and two all adult groups made a difference in some significant ways in people's lives! We celebrate!

### *Direct service gets it done!*

Mike Girty writes - Take a look at these numbers for the summer .....

878 Total volunteer Service Hours  
58 Projects Stated  
48 Projects Completed  
162 People Served in Clearfield County

The numbers reflected do not do justice to the people served, for example, we did three ramp jobs in which the people have not been out of there house except for sporadically, for months and even years.

Patricia (not her real name) had not left her home except by ambulance for 5 years and it is my understanding that she sits on her new porch and now is able to go places again.

Margaret and her mother were going to lose their family home and property until we came along and started helping them to take back the property from blight, every group has helped with this job for the entire months of June, July, and August.

Mike Girty, Service Director, has not only set up these jobs for the groups and volunteers, but in the three months' time, repaired two ramps, fixed six doors, changed five locks, did yard work at 8 houses, removed garbage, and refuse from 6 houses, moved 7 people. He painted several different places, as well as writing grants, answering calls, giving rides, and getting other jobs set-up, attending meeting and fostering new relationships with different places for new people who did know about our services. These agencies include, UPMC, AMERI HEALTH, Peerstar, CenClear, Service, Access and management. This is but a partial list.



## *Blueberry Festival - What a Gift!*

The Blueberry Festival hosted nearly 500 people this year. Featured at the festival was live music entertainment, games for the kids, basket raffles and a variety of food. The blueberry treats included pies, cakes, muffins, sauce, and jam. A special element to the festival was a hayride to the top of the mountain around the blueberry patch.



Fifty-seven volunteers plus YPWC staff made the event a huge success! The volunteers contributed an estimated 687 hours to support the ministries of Young People Who Care. The proceeds from the festival will provide direct services and assistance to people from the area who slip through the cracks of other agencies. Funds raised, also benefit Bethany Retreat Center and Life Line, pregnancy and infant services. Our gratitude goes out to all the sponsors, volunteers and those who attended the festival. Total proceeds came to \$15,100.

## *Life Line Pregnancy & Infant Services -- Angela Larson Life Line Site Director*

Since the Covid Pandemic, Life Line has been on the front lines helping expecting mothers and families with infants in need of diapers, clothes, formula and other necessities.

Along with the pandemic, followed by inflation came the increased cost of food and the shortage of formula. Families that we counsel are struggling to find formula, but with the generosity of our benefactors, we are able to keep a supply of various formulas at Life Line that we have been able to purchase online.

Within the last few months, we have had mothers or fathers say that the special supplement nutrition program has been complicated due to not being able to purchase online, stores in our area don't have the right formula or put a can limit for purchase. Sadly, our clients don't have the extra money for gas to go to the store to purchase formula and diapers. You can help. Donations of formula or gift cards would be a tremendous help for not only the parents but especially the babies.



## *News from Bethany Retreat Center – Sr. Ruth Ann, C.A. Director*

Recently someone asked me about my vision, my hope for Bethany Retreat Center. My immediate response was for people to deepen their relationship with God. That's it in a nutshell! So many retreatants who come to Bethany express how as they arrive, they experience this feeling of profound peace. "God is Spoken of Here". More than in words, God's presence is experienced at Bethany. It, indeed, is a very sacred place and space. It is surrounded by nature, trees, wild life and somehow God's presence is palpable.

My hope is, that as our world and people's lives continue to be immersed in more and more chaos, confusion and instability, Bethany can provide an oasis, a spiritual home for folks to be renewed.

One recent retreatant sent us this note: "This past weekend retreat was truly a healing time for me. Reconnecting with so many did my heart a world of good! Being able to just sit with God and Be on your Holy Mountain!"

Check out Bethany Retreat Schedule on the web to see what retreats may be of interest to you or make your own personal days of retreats. [www.bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org)

Blessings,  
Sr. Ruth Ann

### **Centering Prayer**

Are you wondering if Centering Prayer is for you?

Do you need to renew your Centering Prayer practice?

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the indwelling Presence...a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

Be still and know that I am God.

*Psalms 46:10*

Silence is God's first language.

Join us to learn the method or to renew your practice of this ancient form of silent prayer. Sr. Ruth Ann Madera, CA will be facilitating the Introduction to Centering Prayer at Bethany Retreat Center, January 27-29, 2023. In case of inclement weather, it will be held February 10 – 12, 2023.

**For more information** call 814-263-4855 or email [bethanyretreatcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyretreatcenter@gmail.com)  
**To register** go to [www.bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org)

## First Annual Alumni Service Weekend

August 12, 2022, was a day of travel for 14 adults from the states of Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, and PA. In January I heard from a friend who asked if she could still come for a time of service even though the high school, she normally comes with was not making the trip this summer. If you know Sr. Suzanne very well, you know her answer was an emphatic YES! The invitations went out and twelve people responded. The weekend included: lights out at 9:30pm, instead of 11:30, cold cut lunches, instead of PB&J, hot showers at the end of the day, instead of bathing in the river.



2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alumni Service Weekend  
August 10-14, 2023



## *Volunteers from 1970's continue to give in 2022*

*Sr. Ruth Ann Madera* went to KY for two weeks in the summer of 1976. The following summer she came to YPWC, Frenchville to volunteer for a week, her week turned into a lifetime! In 1983, on December 8, she formally entered the Community of Anawim.

*Tish Donze* in 1976 became the van driver for this group of youth. Tish spent 5 years in YPWC Community and now in 2022 is a member of the Governing Board.

*Mary Margaret Malue* returned for the weekend in September 2022 after getting her first taste of YPWC in 1976. "It's been a great weekend! A weekend of building a ramp, reminiscing over old photos, good food and new friends. I'll be back!"

What's your story? Send us an early photo and your story to: [AnawimCo@gmail.com](mailto:AnawimCo@gmail.com)

## *Let's Get you Caught Up!*

Current and new endeavors that have happened this past year!

- Monthly Labyrinth Retreat Days
- Forrest Therapy During Retreats
- Pond Renovation
- Doug & Mary Kay move on to other endeavors
- Alumni Summer Work Weekend
- Blueberry Festival
- People Who Care Local Service Groups
- College Spring Break Service Week
- Teen Summer Service Week
- 5 Ramps built and new life felt
- Volunteers assist family to save home
- Bedrooms renovated
- Air Conditioning in Bethany
- Steve Angrisano presents Retreat and concert
- Anawim Associates enjoy weekend on property
- Crystal Biggans joins the staff as Bethany Program Director

## Christmas Program

### Would you like a new twist on Christmas Gifts?

Consider sponsoring a person or a family with clothing, household items or basic needs. Every year we have a conversation with families about what they have been living without or what basic needs have been put on the back burner because of financial shortages.

Last year families received vacuums, beds, stoves, and tables. Children had new clothing with socks and underwear. Pillows and sheets were put on beds and many families now have a basic tool kit. You can be a part of this!!!!

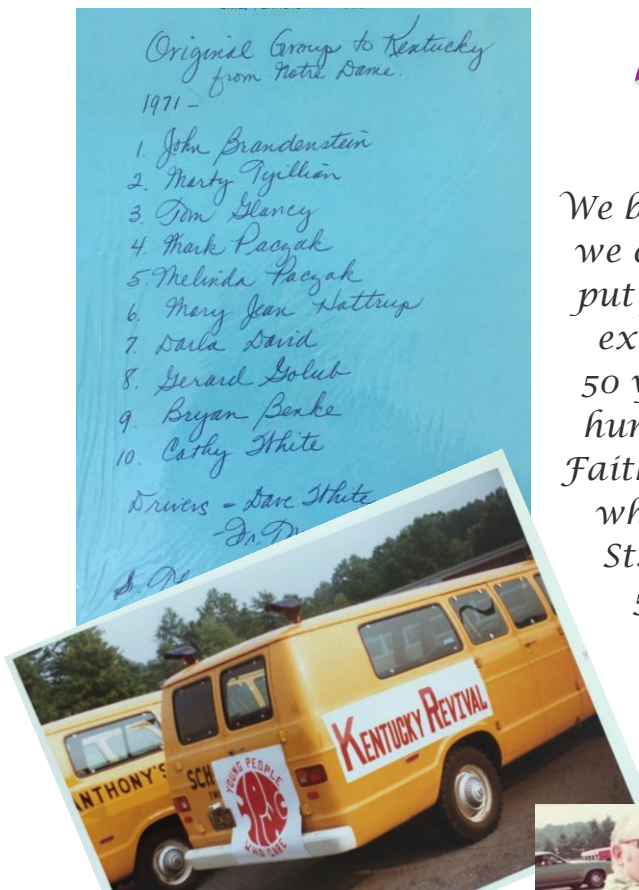
Call Sr.- Suzanne at 814-263-4177 to sponsor or volunteer or deliver the Christmas boxes. Many hands are needed and used during this effort.



*From Young People Who Care of 2022 to Young People Who Care 1972*

# Thank you!

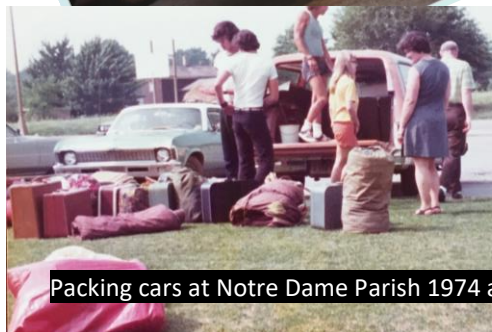
We begin this year, 2022, to celebrate this God Event we call Young People Who Care. The first adults to put faith into action in 1972, you have given us an example and a vision that has been followed for 50 years! At the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the banner that hung on Bethany stated boldly we celebrate God's Faithfulness. Sr. Therese wanted all around to know what God has done here. What started in Sharon, St. Marys, Clarion and Erie, PA, as continued for 50 years. The Holy Spirit took it to Vanceburg, KY where many felt faith, lived in hope, and experienced love shared by teens and adults. We thank you for being the first to trust, the first to desire a lived faith and the first to put your faith into action.



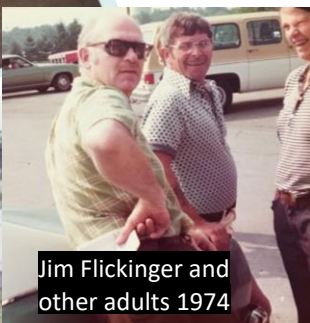
Original Group to Kentucky  
from Notre Dame.  
1971 -

1. John Brandenstein
2. Marty Tyllon
3. Tom Glancy
4. Mark Paszak
5. Melvinda Paszak
6. Mary Jean Natrup
7. Paula David
8. Gerard Golub
9. Bryan Benke
10. Cathy White

Drivers - Dave White  
In D...

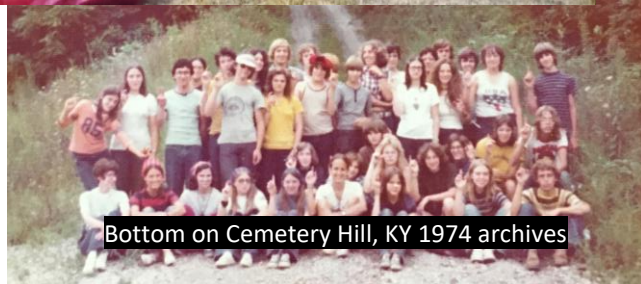


Packing cars at Notre Dame Parish 1974 archives



Jim Flickinger and other adults 1974

In 1976 Sr. Therese put out an appeal, these are her words: "We are looking for people who wish to make a donation. Maybe someone who needs or wants a charity for tax deduction. Also, we need people who are willing to lend money at a very low or NO interest for a period of 2 Years. If you know of any, please have them contact me at the center." (Y<sup>P</sup>WC archives 1976)



Bottom on Cemetery Hill, KY 1974 archives

PO Box 129  
Frenchville, PA 16836

That was then, and this is now. The needs are still great for the many people who have reason to call us. Would you consider making a donation that will see Young People Who Care into another half century of service. Use the enclosed envelope and let us know where you would like us to use your donation. Over the next 4 years this newsletter will be sharing the journey of those years from 1972-1976. Thank you to Tish Donze for the challenging work of putting the Archives in order. We are blessed by her.

Young People Who Care  
PO Box 129  
Frenchville, PA 16836

Bulk mail permit

*Young People Who Care, Inc., is a Catholic grassroots ministry which is a religious nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization.*

*YPWC provides a wide ecumenical circle of care among those who give and those who receive, where the exchange of culture, education and training empower individuals and groups. While adapting to changing times and needs, prayer, simplicity, hospitality, and service remain constant characteristics of Young People Who Care, Inc.*

*We are partners in ministry!*  
Share in the ministry of Young People Who Care by:

- Volunteer for a Service Project – call 814-263-4177
- Pray for the Anawim Sisters and YPWC Staff
- Attend Retreats at Bethany
- Volunteer at Bethany
- Donate to one of the Ministries of YPWC
- Adopt a person/family for Christmas

Contact us at:

Bethany Retreat Center 814-263-4855

Bethany Youth Center 814-263-4177

Check out our website for events and updates at [www.bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org)

**Prayer is one of the core characteristics of YPWC. We lift up the intentions of our benefactors at daily morning Mass. What prayer intention would you have?**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like my donation to go towards:**

- Where it is needed most
- Life Line Pregnancy and Infant Services
- Direct Services to those in need
- Bethany Adult Retreat Scholarships
- Christmas Program
- Youth Programs