



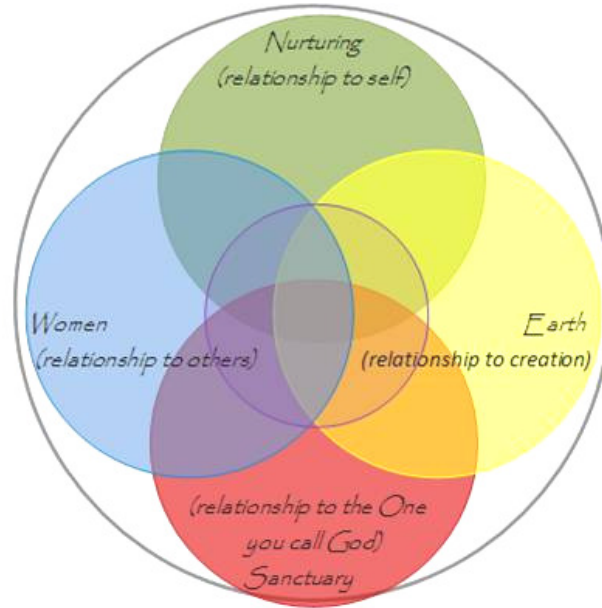
Oasis

Ministries For Spiritual Development

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# NURTURING WOMEN IN THE SANCTUARY OF EARTH



*An Oasis Program Offering  
Whole-making for Women in Nature*

**FEBRUARY 2012  
TO DECEMBER 2012**



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## Nurturing Women in the Sanctuary of Earth

The intent of our new Oasis women's program is to offer sacred space for the spiritual nurture of women in the setting of the natural world. Our hope is for the healing of relationships in four essential directions –

between

- ☞ women and women,
- ☞ women and the earth
- ☞ women and themselves
- ☞ women and the One they call God.

For many women one or more of these essential relationships is broken in some way. We trust that attending to one -- one woman, one brokenness, one relationship – will heal many.

Many women experience deep sanctuary and communion in natural settings, as what is 'spoken' there resonates with the interior terrain of their own earthy nature. Yet, in the company of other women, these same women may feel disconnected. The opposite is often true. In both circumstances there is perhaps some alienation from that which is deep within a woman's own soul, which she sees mirrored in the 'other'.

Our hope is to offer many opportunities for gazing into these mirrors.

Beyond such gazing, there is an embodiment, an integration, of spiritual quickenings that occurs in engaged experiences in nature. As yoga binds body and spirit, so do contemplative

experiences with and in the Earth. This program will encourage such embodied prayer\* in nature by incorporating activities, both in solitude and community, in which women can experience a sense of communion --- again within themselves, with the Earth, with each other, and with the One they call God.

There may be certain areas in a woman's soul, especially if these are wounded spaces, that are only comfortable coming out in the company of the earth, and/or in the company of other women. There is a kind of empathy in both places that may not exist for women in the company of men, or in the domesticated environments in which we live. As healing and whole-making takes place within the context of relationship, we trust that our wilder, more authentic Self might come out to play.

\*Our cabin will be our home while on retreat and will contain much of our conversation and relationship-building but our embodied prayer activities will also take us out-of-doors in experiences of canoeing, snow-shoeing, hiking, fire-building, caving, and/or sleeping on the ground (in or out of tents).

## Dates

We will be gathering on the solstices, equinoxes and cross-quarter days (arriving between 7pm-10pm on the first day of the gathering, closing by 5pm the last day of the gathering).

- February 1-3, 2012**
- March 19-20, 2012**
- May 3-4, 2012**
- June 20-22, 2012**
- September 19-21, 2012**
- November 1-2, 2012**
- December 20-21, 2012 (closing ceremony, to be determined by group)**

## Following the Earth

As Oasis, our days will be bathed in prayer, whether in stillness or motion, alone or community, inside or out. As always, our hope will be to invite women to discover and recover their own authentic way of seeing and being, touching and knowing, the Presence of the Sacred on earth.

While each gathering will always include elements for nurture of the four key relationships, our gathering times, in following the natural rhythms of the earth, will also focus on specific qualities drawn from the seasons. Each compass point in the earth's wheel will orient us to similar places within our own lives. Following the earth's full cycle through the year will allow for exploration of both wholeness and tension, light and shadow, abundance and sparseness, mystery and presence, spirit and soul.

## Program Location

**Camp Blue Diamond**  
4013 Blue Diamond Dr.  
Petersburg, PA 16669  
[www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org)

### Additional Notes:

- ◇ All women welcome.
- ◇ No prior experience required.
- ◇ Meals will be provided by the participants, either communally or individually.
- ◇ The number of participants will be limited to 12.

## Themes

### February 1-3, 2012

thresholds and footprints, beginnings and endings, sparseness, living the tension between stillness and longing, silence and voice

### March 19-20, 2012

conceptions and resurrections, unions and re-unions, stirrings of life and bringing to light, greening power

### May 3-4, 2012

rooting and opening, blossom, becoming and beauty, body, movement and sexuality, passion, loving

### June 20-22, 2012

transformation and growing edges, ebb and flow, mystery and time, balance, power, joy, heat

### September 19-21, 2012

ripeness and wisdom, food and nurture, fullness and emptiness, harvest and abundance, revelation and surprise

### November 1-2, 2012

letting go, forgiveness and trust, death and humus, Spirit, mothers and daughters

### December 20-21, 2012

blessing and annunciation, co-creation, incarnation, birthing and croning, darkness and light, mystery

### To Apply:

Simply complete the attached form and send it to Betsy Keller ([betsykeller@oasismin.org](mailto:betsykeller@oasismin.org)) at

Oasis Ministries  
419 Deerfield Road, Camp Hill, PA 17019.

Feel free to contact us with questions at 717-737-8222.



## Leadership

**Vicki Kensinger** is a spiritual companion and lover of beauty, residing in Palmyra, PA, where she nurtures her garden, her creativity, and her spiritual direction practice, Sacred Listening. She has completed Oasis' *Spiritual Direction for Spiritual Guides* two-year program, and the *Deepening Year for Direction Ministries*. She blogs at [www.emmaatlast.wordpress.com](http://www.emmaatlast.wordpress.com)

## Tuition

### TUITION: \$650

Plus an Application Fee of \$100 (non-refundable after program begins\*) sent with attached form.

If application received by December 1, 2011:

**discount \$50** from application fee

If application received after January 15, 2012:

**add \$50** to application fee

Tuition may be paid in full at any time, or may be paid in five equal installments of \$130 (first upon acceptance into program, then by each gathering date in May, June, September, and November.)

*Some scholarship assistance available.*

*Call to inquire.*

**Participants are asked to pay for and attend all sessions.** Payments by MasterCard, Visa and Discover are welcome.

### Withdrawing your application from the program

The Application fee -less \$50- is refundable if withdrawn prior to February 1, 2012.



## Nurturing Women in the Sanctuary of Earth (NWSE)

### ◆ APPLICATION FORM ◆

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE(S) HOME \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\*APPLICATION FEE ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check payable to "Oasis Ministries" OR VISA /MC/DISCOVER also welcomed) VISA/MC/DISCOVER # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 3-digit CODE (on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*To apply, Complete this application & attach a short statement** (approximately one page, single-spaced) **answering:**

1. What draws you to participate in this program?
2. How does the healing or whole-making of one of these 4 essential relationships call to you right now?
3. Describe relationship(s) with women and/or experiences in natural setting(s) that have shaped you spiritually (positively or negatively).
4. Do you have previous experience in any spiritual formation programs? (none is necessary, but helpful for the leader to know)