

“God is a direction.” Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke

SOME PATHWAYS PARTICIPANTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE:

“PATHWAYS for me is first and foremost a warm, welcoming, and accepting place to be. This community is an open gathering place that fosters personal sharing that is judgment free, respectful, and nurtures a palpable sense of belonging. Participants honor and encourage each other in sharing their respective beliefs, experiences and challenges. Framed in the contemporary issues of the day, and through each other’s reflections and insights on the meaning of the Christian faith, the community deepens and grows in exploring a collective wisdom. The participation with scripture texts, prayer, music and a shared meal helps me stay attuned to the gentler life rhythms of an intimate faith community. PATHWAYS is a grounding place, as well as a place for me to grow in a deeper meaning. I am most grateful and thankful for this.” Randy

“I believe that human beings have a spiritual component to their nature, although what this amounts to varies wildly among individuals. Over the last twenty years, I have come to acknowledge that most human quality as part of my own make up. It has become important to me to attend to that part of my being.

For the most part, this has meant taking an academic interest in religious/spiritual teachings, and finding things that resonate with me. Along the way, I am often struck by the beauty of expressions of faith, wisdom and love that are found in all religious traditions. And I find the large-scale spiritual questions, the ones addressed inside and outside of religions, interesting and important.

My affiliation with PATHWAYS puts me in the company of others who, in ways unique to each of us, are also seeking to attend to their spiritual lives. I have read a quote somewhere to the effect that “no one seeks God alone.” By this I understand that coming together as we do each month acknowledges our common spiritual nature, and nurtures our individual desires to live fully human lives.” – Cindy

PATHWAYS is another step for me in my spiritual journey. Many times I think I still have a long way to go and sometimes it's two steps forward and one step back. But it is progress. ... I've known the difference between superstition and spirituality. I now know the big difference between being religious and being spiritual. I know there is a graceful way of being right, and many ways to be wrong. I always look forward to learning with others at our PATHWAYS gatherings as part of my spiritual progress, and thank John for this ministry. – Chuck

What I like best about PATHWAYS is that it is a house-church. We meet in someone’s home, and sit in a circle. There is a welcoming feeling, a feeling of inclusiveness. One feels that all people would be welcomed regardless of their beliefs.

I do not normally consider myself a “Christian,” and in fact am often prejudiced against so-called Christians, but after attending PATHWAYS for a while, I am softening my stance. This is a group of good hearted and benevolent people who are not only open-hearted but also open-minded.

There is a deeper element too, of reflecting on the commentary, and thinking about one’s relationship to the mystery of God and the grace of one’s existence. – Judy



PATHWAYS
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A GATHERING PLACE
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