



Hello Shoalers,

As winter grips New England, Star Island's warm atmosphere and aroma of salt air can seem so far away....though it's important to note that January 10th marked 200 days until we arrive on island. When you look at it that way, Star doesn't seem too distant! This year your Star Gathering I conference chairs will be Scott & Kat Miller and Laura & Tom Ermini, and your registrar will be Keri Mattaliano. We are eagerly anticipating our week on island, and wanted to share our plans and gather your opinions (please be sure to access the conferee survey via the link below).

First and foremost, it is important to note **that this year's conference will be Saturday, July 28 - Saturday, August 4.** The blue books and conference registration documents will be mailed soon. Any completed conferee registration that is returned to Keri prior to June 1st will be entered in a raffle for \$400 off the room & board bill.

We are very excited regarding the Minister of the Week and Speaker of the Week that we have lined up for this summer. Pastor Tadd Allman-Morton of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ of Westhampton, MA will be our Minister of the Week. His theme will be **Embodying Faith.**

How can a faith tradition centered on the Incarnation of God so often be skittish about the wonderful gifts of our bodies? What holistic lessons are there to learn about being faithfully embodied from both Scripture and the rich beauty of Star Island? Come explore embodying faith in worship, exercise and contemplative prayer with Pastor Tadd Allman-Morton.

The Speaker of the Week is Lawrence Peers whose program is titled: "**Embodied Spirituality: The Anatomy of Resilience**"

Resilience is not just "bouncing back," it can also be an on-going cultivation of particular qualities within everyday life. In this program, we will draw upon and integrate a variety of perspectives and practices to cultivate resilience: using personal and sacred stories, drawing upon the body's wisdom, journaling and interacting to enhance our understanding and exploration of resilience as an embodied spiritual capacity. Bring a playful, curious and adventuresome spirit to this exploration!

Lawrence Palmieri Peers works with individuals and congregations around the country as a senior consultant with the Alban Institute (www.alban.org). Lorry draws from a rich array of insights and methods developed from his extensive background in organizational development, ontological and somatic coaching, narrative therapy, and spiritual discernment processes.

Though we have an adult program leader and a minister of the week every year, some activities we offer year to year change. In order to get a better understanding of what you would like to do on island this year, we have set up an online survey to capture your opinions. **Please access this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3XWKHXX> by February 1, 2012, so that we can make arrangements for resources.**

If you have any questions on this year's conference, please don't hesitate to contact one of the conference chairs. Enjoy the next 200 days on the mainland and we'll see you soon.

You will come back!

Kat & Scott Miller, Laura & Tom Ermini

* Kat & Scott Miller: scottkat@berkshire.rr.com *

* Laura Ermini: LauraErmini@yahoo.com * Tom Ermini: TomErmini@yahoo.com *