

I am writing to inform you of my decision to move on. I am moving on because I have come to the point in my life where I need to focus on my local parish and our community in the East End of Pittsburgh.

The service I have provided in coordinating our weekly Bible studies is now in the capable hands of the team we have assembled, Ted Wood, Don Rimbey, Gary Dunbar, Chuck Mathe, Roger Myers, and Gary Craig, under the leadership of our current teacher Jeff Stivason.

Throughout the history of the Brave Men, starting with Dick Johnson who called Bruce Bickel in 1995 to be our first teacher, it has always been the teacher who is our leader. The curious thing is that no one called me to do what I have been doing. It was one of those things that I took upon myself as we talked about ways to improve our weekly Bible study. So therefore as I move on, the weekly Bible study may change. That is up to you men and God.

Going forward I will offer my services to continue with the weekly newsletter and managing our website. Hopefully one you Brave Men will step up to take on this duty and I will prepare you as best I can. I would also recommend that Ted Wood, Don Maurer, or Don Rimbey be our host on Friday mornings for the warm up before Jeff teaches.

Chuck Mathe has been doing an excellent job as our treasurer. I will continue to pay some minor expenses out of what is left in our treasury and transition that full responsibility to Chuck, if he is willing. Don Maurer does our weekly transcripts, which is our major expense. Other expenses such as the Web hosting (which has been paid for 2022) and other incidental expenses surrounding our software for the newsletter, database and website will be paid by the funds in our treasury.

One of our men from our set-up team, listed above, will need to become the point man to make sure everything runs smoothly as we go forward.

There are many fond memories of being together over these years. From World Vision, where it all began, to the Farmhouse at Christ Church, to our current home at the Barn, God has brought many men together to hear his word as we grow in our faith.

May God continue to bless us all as we learn from him who calls us to serve each other, and lead us on "*the voyage into the self*" as Frederick Buechner explained in his book, "*The Hungering Dark*." Consider his words about our voyage:

*The voyage into the self is long and dark and full of peril, but I believe that it is a voyage that all of us will have to make before we are through. Either we climb down into the abyss willingly with our eyes open, or we risk falling into it with our eyes closed . . . if we search ourselves deeply enough, we will begin to see at last who we really are, we will begin to see, very dimly at first, our own true faces.*

*Selfhood in the sense that you are one self and I am another self begins to fade. You begin to understand that in some way your deepest self is the self of all men - that you are in them and they are in you. You begin to understand not as an ideal but as a reality, an experience, that their pain is your pain, their need your need; that there can really be no getting ahead at their expense, there can be no joy for you until there is joy for them. And whatever your religion is, or your lack of religion, in this sense I think that the soul of every man is Christian and that the man on the cross who finds peace and fullness and true life is at the very least a symbol of the deepest truth about every one of us. I believe that by God's grace it is our destiny, in this life or in whatever life awaits us, to discover the face of our inmost being, to become at last and at great cost who we truly are."*

I am grateful for the time we have spent together and how you have taught me in my "voyage." I am only a phone call (412-209-5702) or click (sigtragard@comcast.net) away.

Love to us all through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ