

# Northeast Kansas SPIRIT

A Newsletter for the Northeast Kansas  
Marriage Encounter Community  
[www.neksme.org](http://www.neksme.org)

September 2006



## Index

Executive Team Letter	Page 1	Community Coordinators	Page 14
Weekend Dates	Page 2	eMatromony Contact	Page 15
5 Languages of Love	Page 4	Money Matters	Page 15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Hayride	Page 5	Internet Links	Page 15
Heats Afire Story	Page 6	Spirit Input	Page 15
Convention Pictures	Page 8		

## Northeast Kansas Executive Team



*Dear NEKS Lovers;*

Wow! Were you at convention? Then you know what we mean when we describe it as an awesome, relationship building, community enriching, spirit filled experience. What started out as a dream and a dialogue turned into reality through the passion of many, many couples in NEKS. Please read the story in this edition of the **Spirit**

The convention might be over, but hearts are still afire here in NEKS. Couples from 'Encountered Romantics on Sunday' have working hard on their presentations for *'The Five Languages of Love'* workshop. This marriage enrichment is open to ALL married couples. So invite your friends, your neighbors, and your coworkers to join us on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at Prince of Peace in Olathe. A registration form is included in this **Spirit**. Feel free to make copies. And if you have any questions, please contact Ed and Marie Bray at 913\*764\*0714.

Don't forget the discernment for new leaders on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Cure of Ars in Leawood starting at 10am. So for those who don't know what discernment is and how does it differ from just voting, here is a definition from the *American Heritage Dictionary*: discernment is a process of exhibiting keen insight and good judgment.. It is time to pray and ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit. All community couples vote on who will be the new NEKS executive couple. The leaders you choose become your servants for NEKS Marriage Encounter. Service is the end product of humility and discernment – the capacity to make a difference. Three couples are eligible for leadership: Tom and Jackie Rork, Ralph and Jan Lewis, and Joe and Natalie Wrobel.

Also in the month of the Harvest Moon is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual bonfire and hayride. Ed and Marie Bray are organizing this family community event. It will be held on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 6 pm. It is at the same location in southern Johnson County. Mark your calendars now!

As we write our last letter to all of you, we want you to know how much we admire and love you. You have inspired us and raised us above the ordinary in our sacramental love. The last 3 years (almost) have given us many treasured memories that we will always cherish. Yet, certain sadness engulfs us as we will no longer see many loving couples from Section 9 on a regular basis. Still we look forward to some time for just the two of us. The value of what Marriage Encounter does for us as a couple is very strong. And it motivates us to let others know about ‘the power of the weekend’. No matter what, we will still be here – inviting couples, presenting weekends, being active in our community, large and small.

So our final 10 and 10 question for you is:  
 Have we made a difference in the life of another couple during the last 3 years?  
 HDIFAMA?

With love and lots of hugs,  
 Bill and Carol Lafferty along with  
 Fr. Jim Shaughnessy

***The Next NEKS weekend is November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Wyndham Gardens Hotel on Metcalf at I-435. The hosting communities are: CUPIDS and The Aging Angels. As always, all couples are invited to both the closing and the reunion. Show your ME spirit by attending.***

Weekend Dates for 2007		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Reunion</u>	<u>Place*</u>
February 2 – 4	Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Overland Park
April 22 – 24	April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Topeka
June 8-10	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Overland Park
Sept. 7 – 9	Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	Overland Park
Nov. 9 – 11	Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Overland Park
* Subject to change		

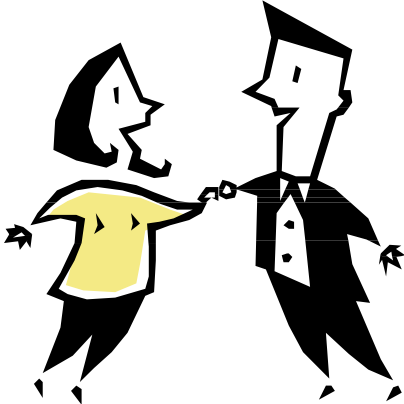
**Be A  
 Prayer  
 Couple**



Are you and your spouse speaking  
the same language?

**Learn how at  
The Five Languages of Love  
Workshop**

*Based on the book by Dr. Gary Chapman*



**W**hat speaks volumes to you, may be meaningless to your spouse, But here at last is the key to understanding each other's unique needs. Apply the right principles, learn the right language and soon you'll know the profound satisfaction and joy of being able to express your love... and feeling truly loved in return.

**MARRIED COUPLE ARE**

**ALL  
INVITED**

When: Saturday, September 30th, 2006  
8:00 am until 4:30 pm

Place: Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
16000 West 143rd Street Olathe, KS

Cost: \$20.00 per couple (includes lunch)

**Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 27th, 2006**

**Registration Form**

Name (his) \_\_\_\_\_ (hers) \_\_\_\_\_ last \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ parish \_\_\_\_\_

Please send registration form and a \$20.00 check (make check payable to  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter) to : John and Cindy Seberger  
19934 West 218th Street  
Springhill, KS 66083

Any questions?

Please call  
Ed and Marie Bray  
913-764-0714

# Hayride, Bonfire, Weiner Roast

## Sunday, October 29, 2006

4:30-7:45pm

\$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 children 3-12,  
(Children under 3 are free)



**Everyone Welcome!**

**Invite family, friends, and neighbors.**

**Sharp's Country Hayrides**

**2111 Mission Rd.**

20 minutes from Olathe & Overland Park

Directions: South on US-69, East on 199<sup>th</sup> St,  
South on Mission Rd approx. 1 mile.

\* Hot Dogs for roasting, s'mores, chips and drinks provided by Marriage Encounter.

**Sharp's requires a "number count" of participants  
by the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, we need to know by that deadline.**

**Ed & Marie Bray, 913/764-0714.**

**[Marie-Ed@Juno.com](mailto:Marie-Ed@Juno.com)**



There is a large shelter house with picnic tables and a bonfire circle. The hayracks are pulled by beautiful teams of draft horses. The ride is in the timber and on a creek. It starts about 6:30 pm (approx. 40 minutes long). Bring your camera.



## Hearts Afire in Section 9

It is hot. It is humid. It is Kansas in August. But that did not stop 120 sacraments from attending Section 9's convention at Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas, August 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.

The vision of this convention started two years earlier when Bill and Carol Lafferty, the NEKS execs dreamed of hosting a convention while attending Hearts of the Heartland in Kearney, Nebraska. During that convention the seed was planted; it was fertilized by their strong belief in the gifts and graces present in the NEKS community. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, three lead couples were chosen: John and Jeannine Binder, Ron and Sharon Heyse, and Tim and Jan Turner. Their determination and perseverance coupled with a true passion helped bring this convention to fulfillment. The labor of love was seen as more than 60 sacraments jointly planned and produced what became one of the best conventions ever. Having a user friendly website not only helped couples register, but kept them updated as to what was going on. Many thanks to the talented John and Dawn Lalumondier for not only creating the website but also in handling all the registrations.

Couples and priests were greeted with a huge welcome sign attached to the bell tower and after walking under an arch of heart shaped balloons, they were greeted by hospitality couples wearing red bandannas and the yellow polo convention shirts.. Ralph and Susan Pruentes and their share group did a fantastic job in handling the hospitality (many couples took advantage of Savior's newly remodeled suites) but also all of the facility management.



As couples gathered, Friday evening, in the auditorium, they learned the convention song written by Joe and Kristen Scott of Colorado Springs. Their uplifting song brought everyone back together after each sharing. Also, Many thanks to Kevin and Pam Beauford who handled all the music and assembled the choir. Despite having little opportunity to practice as a whole group, they sounded great. Friday night started with the procession of section, area and community banners. Over 30 banners lined the auditorium creating a colorful back drop for all of the activities. This was in addition to the beautiful red, gold and cream convention banners up on stage. Two sets of three 15 foot banners were suspended on a hoop. This unique design created a fluid movement showing how our passion is always in motion. Many thanks to Kevin and Pam Beauford and their committee to this work of art.

Our emcee for the convention was Fr. Kevin Weber, aka. the singing priest from Hays, Kansas. He entertained us with stories, a great sense of humor and his music. He personally paraphrased his own rendition of "Great Balls of Fire" for us. After his introductory comments the prayer celebration began. In darkness, couples walked in carrying red, white and gold candles. These were set on a stand that created an outline of a heart. Throughout the weekend, more candles were lit as our hearts truly became afire.

A share group from Overland Park, Kansas led by John and Lori Lorg orchestrated this memorable beginning complete with the liturgy and music.



All conventions need three elements to be successful: an inspiring liturgy, motivational presentations and relationship building. Without a doubt, Hearts Afire contained all three and then some. There is not space here, to list all those who contributed in making this a memorable convention. The liturgy committee was headed up by Denny and Karen Schemmel. However, as with most of the convention committees, this was done through great teamwork as was seen on Friday night. In addition to the two Masses, they planned a total of 3 prayer celebrations and the sacrament of reconciliation service that was held on Saturday afternoon. We walked “On Holy Ground” and became “Companions on the Journey” Sacramental vows were renewed during the celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday afternoon. Sunday morning’s prayer celebration centered on the Pentecost. The readings were not just done in English but also in Spanish, German, French, and Polish.



The culminating Celebration of the Eucharist was concelebrated by Archbishop Joseph Naumann and 8 priests from Section 9 This was held in the beautiful chapel that is part of Savior Pastoral Center.



**The joy of sharing**



Another important element is the motivational presentations that get us recharged to live this radical lifestyle and go and change the world. Kevin and Karen Mead with the help of Tom and Jackie Rork wrote and workshopped three awesome presentations. They centered around reigniting the fire in our sacrament,(Paul & Cathy Kiefer, Fr. John Reynolds) rekindling the passion for our family and community,(John & Andrea Zody, FR. Mike Stubbs and tending to the flame that is our church (Paul & Julie Kuestersteffen, Fr. David Metz). All the presenters except Fr. Mike came from communities in NEKS

and Salina and are not regular presenting couples! What an awesome job – congratulations to all!

Before the first presentation on Saturday morning we were energized by Tom and Katie Watson, along with Fr. Rudy Oborny. Section 9's ecclesial team.



Saturday evening was truly a night to remember. It started immediately after Mass with a trip down memory lane as couples and priests watched wedding and ordination photos of themselves. This was accompanied by live music performed by Steve Courtney, musician and songwriter from Cure of Ars' Parish in Leawood, Kansas. Everyone then followed red and yellow rose petals to a candlelight dinner and dance celebration. A live band, wedding photos along with wedding cake, punch and numerous door prizes set the tone for the reliving of past wedding receptions. Many thanks to the "Legacy group" from Overland Park: Ralph and Nila Ilyaria-Martin; John and Dawn Lalumondier and many more loving couples who put countless hours into making this an unforgettable evening.

Everyone was enraptured by Fr. Bill Bruning from Topeka's Most Pure of Heart Parish on Sunday morning. His witness to the power of the sacrament of matrimony touched the hearts and souls of everyone there. Following his talk, a slide show covering the last two years of couples and priests in Section 9 was shown. It concluded with photos from Hearts afire becoming just 'One Memory Away'.



As with all Marriage encounter conventions, it is not over until our song is sung. But this time it was definitely done with flair. At the end of Mass, everyone received a red or yellow balloon. Even the 100 degree heat did not melt the joy each sacrament experienced as we released our balloons at the end of our song.

**Hearts Afire had come to an end, but the spirit of love keeps burning brightly.**

**With Hearts Still Afire  
Bill and Carol Lafferty and Fr. Jim Shaughnessy  
Northeast Kansas Executive Team**



# CONVENTION PICTURES



Northeast Kansas Ecclesial team Bill and Carol Lafferty (Olathe) and Father Jim Shaughnessy (Frankfort, KS) welcome attendees to this year's Section 9 convention held August 4-6<sup>th</sup> at Savior Pastoral Center. The team extended their 2-year term by one year to actively support the convention lead couples to create an emotional and spirit-filled weekend of prayers, songs and dialogue.

Convention emcee Fr. Kevin Weber sparked the start of the 2006 convention with his lyrical version "Great hearts Afire" to the tune of "Great Balls of Fire" to the delight of more than 110 couples and 8 other priests. Father Weber is pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Hays, Kansas.



Tom & Katie Watson (Denver), and Father Rudy Oborny (Hebron, NE), Section 9 Ecclesial Lead team carry in the Section 9 banner to start the procession of over 25 banners at the opening ceremony at Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, Kansas. More than 110 couples and 8 priests attended from Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.







Saturday Morning Greeting: Section 9 Ecclesial team leaders Father Rudy Oborny, Katie and Tom Watson extend a warm greeting to the over 110 couples and 8 priests who attended.



Father John Reynolds, Paul and Cathy Kiefer delivered their theme presentation entitled "Building the Fire in Our Relationship".



Joe Scott and Kevin Beauford lead the combined choral group in the song "Hearts Afire" (song and lyrics written by Joe and Kristin Scott)



John & Andrea Zody of Ellis, Kansas and Father Mike Stubbs of Lansing, Kansas prepare to deliver their theme presentation: "Stoking the Fire through Community and Journeying Together", the second in a series of 3 presentations.



Paul & Julia Kuestersteffen with Fr. David Mertz presented a skit for the last Presentation Saturday. The preacher and his wife presented "Roaring Fire, Renewal in the Church"



The Marriage Encounter quilt, crafted by Carol Lafferty is made from the 2006 convention polo shirt and shirts from prior Section 9 conventions. The quilt was given to the winner of the raffle held Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> at Savior Pastoral Center.



Saturday afternoon.

Encountered couples enjoy relaxing conversation prior to dinner and big band music at the Saturday evening "Wedding Reception". Listening and dancing music was provided by the Moon City Big Band 15-piece groups who have entertained at many local wedding receptions.



Father Kevin Weber of Hays, Kansas steps out of his role as convention emcee to "cut the rug" with another Western Kansan.



Left: Gifts & memories. Above: Getting ready for closing Sunday.



Father Bill Bruning, pastor at Mother of Calcutta parish, Topeka, Kansas delivers the keynote address Sunday morning. His talk captured the essence of the "Hearts Afire" theme and received a standing ovation from the over 110 couples and priests.

# World Priest Day

3rd Sunday of September

September 17, 2006

We  Our Priest 

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## Prayers

All those seeking employment  
All our elderly parents  
All hurting marriages

Peace and Joy in our lives  
World leaders (that they may be open to  
God's direction)

We lift these friends and situations up to you, Lord,  
And ask you to surround them with your love.  
Bless and heal them. Amen

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**Keep this list handy  
and call other groups if  
you want to get  
together or if you need  
help hosting, etc.**



# eMatrimony.org

Supporting, Encouraging, and Challenging the WWME Community

A World Wide Marriage Encounter on line magazine supporting, encouraging and challenging the WWME community. The eMatrimony contact for Section 9 is Lynn and Gabrielle Willdermood from here in NEKS. If you have a story you would like to submit about anything ME, please contact them at 913-764-7730 or email them at [lynnwilldermood@comcast.net](mailto:lynnwilldermood@comcast.net)

## Money Matters



### Donations Accepted

We would greatly appreciate any donation you could make to the "Spirit" to help offset the cost of printing. We lovingly donate our time and energy to make this newsletter possible, but the printers want to be paid. Help us out with a tax deductible donation.

**Make checks out for WWME and mail to:**

**Ron & Sharon Heyse  
5508 W. 98<sup>th</sup> Terr.  
Overland Park, KS 66207**

### Internet Links

Worldwide ME Website  
[WWW.WWME.ORG](http://WWW.WWME.ORG)  
The Northeast KS Website  
[WWW.NEKSME.ORG](http://WWW.NEKSME.ORG)  
2006 Convention Website  
<http://www.mesection9convention2006.org>  
eMatrimony.org Magazine  
[www.ematrimony.org](http://www.ematrimony.org)

### Spirit Input

Please send us favorite poems, readings, recipes, dialogue questions, jokes, etc. Also pass along any prayer requests and special occasions .....births, deaths, anniversaries; we all benefit when we share.

E-mail Jim & Barb Goering at [bjgoering@everestkc.net](mailto:bjgoering@everestkc.net)