2008 June Newsletter

Nancy Rockey

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"The Journey” in Small Groups

By Ron and Nancy Rockey

Perhaps you wonder what this article is really about and why it should warrant a front page position in our newsletter. Not a bad question, should you be one who wonders. At first we pondered the topic that had been assigned, but finally came to the realization that all of our subscribers should really understand the mission and purpose of Life Renewal Institute, and just how we go about our mission.

Life Renewal Institute was founded by four wounded people who discovered that healing from old wounds is not only possible, but there is a plan behind it and a method for obtaining that healing. We determined that we would continue the work started in earnest in 1995, when we (Ron and Nancy) began full time ministry designed to provide tools for emotional healing. We decided to expand the ministry and its outreach, but first we were to write a new program that would touch the church and the un-churched – those possibly resistant to Biblical input. We decided to add chapters to the individual workbooks, including both sound psychological principles and scientific information. While still based on the Word of God, we would leave out Biblical chapter and verse so that it would be attractive and/or palatable to those who resist religion.

What we discovered is that while God is still in the miracle business, He often works through natural means to accomplish that miracle. Just like returning as an infant to your mother’s womb is physically impossible, so returning to our beginnings, our in-womb experience and first few years, for emotional healing is impossible, without the grace (unmerited divine assistance for the regeneration and sanctification of mankind) of God. But a look at Scripture reminds us that Jesus counseled us to be “born again.” Jesus was saying that we need to look back over our lives, and great respect for our current community for 42 years. I’m sure that his faith and belief in this statement is what made life successful for him. He has been a faithful witness and greatly respected in his current community for 42 years. I’m sure during that time that he faced many challenges where he felt inadequate, but relied on God to give him the tools he needed at the time. On Father’s Day, I feel blessed that he is my Dad. Do you have something you appreciate about your Dad? Make sure you tell him on Father’s Day.

As you read Ron and Nancy’s articles in this issue, I would strongly encourage you to pray about whether or not you are being “called” to facilitate a renewal group in your area. Remember, you don’t have to let fear of inadequacy stop you. “God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called.” There is training, tools and support available and you will be amazed how much your own life changes because of it.

If you are currently a facilitator and have a testimony or tips you would be willing to share with others to encourage them, please send it to me at audrey@yourLRI.com.

If you have comments on any of the articles in this newsletter, please send them to me also. We are starting a new feature of “letters to the editor” and would like to post your thoughts, suggestions, comments, etc.

Audrey Woods

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, “You’re tearing up the grass.” “We’re not raising grass” Dad would say, “We’re raising boys.” – Harmon Killebrew

In This Issue:
Editor’s Corner
The Journey
Effective Small Groups
Anne’s Story
Letters to the Editor
Book Review
Upcoming Live Events
Father Meets Challenge
Facilitator Resources
Order Form

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eight or less participants and meets weekly for a two hour session until the lessons are completed.

The Journey is divided into four, ten-session segments, with each segment standing on its own and including the tools for healing. The first ten sessions, The Passenger, are about Styles of Attachment that we develop in the womb and the first two years of life, and carry with us throughout adulthood, unless a program of healing takes place. Segment two, The Mode, focuses on the most severe – rejection. Rejection is felt in every culture and leads those who suffer from it on a road of self-destruction and poor relationships. Healing is possible and has been experienced by thousands who have processed through their wound(s). The third segment, The Route, looks at the other three categories of abuse, physical, emotional and sexual, their devastating effects and the tools for healing from them. Segment four, The Destination, makes it clear that our destination is not a static place, but an ongoing experience of ever-increasing peace, love and joy, and offers the steps back to how we were originally designed to function and to feel.

Making Your Small Group Effective

By Ron and Nancy Rockey

The goal of LRI is to have a group be effective in providing the tools and experiences necessary to heal from wounds received. Not every Group Facilitator is an expert in facilitating. Each receives training, either in a live training seminar or via video, but experience itself is the best trainer! Many of our facilitators have been through the recovery groups and have experienced them from a participant’s point of view, which is one of the best trainings there is. WHY? Because each facilitator is also a participant in every group he or she facilitates! Facilitators are not to function as teachers, pastors, parents, counselors or as one who “knows it all.” The collective group has its own wisdom, along with teaching provided in the chapters and videos.

There are however, some pointers that can be a great benefit as you choose to facilitate a group for the first time or as you continue facilitating. We are including them here so that you have courage to become a facilitator or continue facilitating.

1. Show your own enthusiasm! If you are excited about what the future holds for each of your group members, they will absorb your enthusiasm. Feel free to briefly share the path you traveled to your own healing, and that you chose to facilitate their group to offer them benefits like you derived from your experience. Be careful that you don’t absorb ALL of the class time, but a 10 minute intro in Class One, explaining your journey, will build their confidence.

2. Download “A Letter to Class Members” and hand it out at the first class. Go over this letter together (every Class One of every segment) as it contains a welcome and greeting from the authors and gives you and idea of what you can expect from the group experience. This is important to members! ***Note: You will need to register as a facilitator in order to be able to access this resource. Click here if you are a registered facilitator to login. You can download this letter under “Facilitator Resource”/“Facilitation Aides”. If you are not currently a registered facilitator, click here to register.

3. Carefully read aloud the “Guidelines for Group Members”! Be sure that each member understands each point, and be sure that you as a facilitator are the model of following them. Periodically during the ten weeks (maybe once or twice) have them pull out the guidelines and briefly go over them again, answering any questions that might arise. If you don’t know the answer, say that and add that you’ll find it out and report back to the class the next session. Feel free to call LRI for the answer.

4. Make sure that each member has filled out their “Registration Form” and that you have a copy of each one in a folder that goes to class with you. They are confidential, but valuable to have in your possession as needed.

5. Make sure you have a copy of everyone’s “Contract of Understanding” and members understand that it is a binding contract.

6. Each member should pay a fee for attending the class. The fee is determined by your sponsoring organization or church or by you if you do this service independently. Some members may not be able to afford the fee, but they should receive scholarship for a portion of the fee – not all of it. The reason for this is that members feel more ownership if they have paid for the classes.

7. Follow the procedures outlined! It is important that the groups NOT be allowed to be co-ed. This is a hard and fast rule for the protection of all concerned. It is important that food and beverages (other than water) NOT be allowed during class – these can separate a member from the task at hand.

8. Stick to the planned material for the class! Do not add materials, because inevitably something is left out from the lesson because other items were added. The questions and the reading materials are there for a reason – the information is needed for the process.

9. Allow equal time for each member to share. Often in a group, one or two members want to dominate. This is NOT beneficial! It disallows time for other members to participate, and they are equal in their right for time and attention. If this becomes an issue in your group, a three minute egg timer can often solve the problem. It’s wise to have one in your bag!

10. Let your members “pick up the pieces” too! If one of your participants should fall into tears, and be quite emotional during a session, it is appropriate to hesitate a few moments to allow fellow participants to comfort and/or console. Sometimes people are extremely uncomfortable with the tears or emotional upset of others, so they rush to hug and “make it better” so the upset will end. This is one reason why it is important that as facilitators you listen carefully and observe intently so that you know your participants. Sometimes a “good cry” is what is needed, not a brake on the tears.

11. Encourage your people! It is easy in this recovery process to feel discouraged, to question your own progress, to doubt that you are making personal changes. When you see
changes in your people, say so – let them know that their efforts are NOT in vain – that they are making valuable progress.

12. **Plan a celebration** for the end of each 10 week segment. That’s the session for brownies or cookies or chips and dip - after the class. Please DO NOT include alcoholic beverages in your celebration – who needs trouble?

We have included a few brief tips from well-experienced facilitators. These are tips that have helped their members to get more out of the group class.

**Audrey says that it is important to ACTIVELY LISTEN:**
- **Empathize** - Empathy occurs when someone feels you enter into his/her experience or reality, which adds immediate comfort and connection.
- **Focus on the One Talking** - Look at the person. Don't get distracted by movement around you. Keep a good distance so as to not get in their space.
- **Non-verbal cues** - nodding, and facial expressions to show what you are feeling about what the group member is feeling.
- **Reflective Statements** - use these to show you heard. It is important to reflect what you have heard, but don't rush. Take time to think first.
- **Don't Fake Listening** - If you don't understand what you heard, say so. Don't make believe that you’re listening.

So many people need to feel that they are really being heard, because in childhood they were to be “seen and not heard.” Bet you know that line! Actually, not really hearing “between the lines” or caring enough to pay very close attention to not only words but also to body language, tone of voice, facial expressions and evident emotions, is a form of rejection. A person could easily interpret that the listener doesn’t really care about what they have to say, because, just like they experienced in childhood, some other agenda is pressing or taking priority over what the speaker is sharing. These are therefore very sensitive to not being really heard and understood.

**Janice advises:** “If you know these women from other places, and they are your friends, you’ll need to get that out of your head as facilitator. It will truly “muddy the waters” of their development. They might not appreciate it at first, but as they see how the program works, they’ll get used to you as the driving force to help them grow. (I know this from experience)”

“On the very first class you must outline how you will handle it if they can't make it to a class. My way was to get to the room 1 hour before the next week’s class, let them see the video and go quickly over the material they missed. If they need to miss more than one class, they need to leave the group. We all know stuff comes up - people get sick, stuff happens to kids, etc. but this is special and for the group to grow together, members can't miss more than one.”

“I wrote up a special prayer for each group - included the names of the ladies and we all prayed it before each session.”

“If time allowed - at the end I’d allow about 15 minutes for just visiting.”

“No food allowed - for some reason they tended to think it became a party or a social time rather than time to do the work needed. The last class we all would bring a dish and we'd do a fun eating time.”

**Ellen, who has facilitated a number of groups, is now facilitating a group of five via telephone.** This idea, while it might be beneficial for people at a distance or for those who cannot get to a central location, should be attempted only by skilled and experienced facilitators. Eye to eye contact and observance of body language is missing, and this is crucial for the best understanding especially in important or emotionally charged interactions.

“Prior to class/call each participant views the video, reads the chapter and completes the lesson as well as any homework. Discussion and relaying of answerers to the lesson questions are reserved for the 2 hours of the call. There often is continued discussion during the week between those members of the group that do know each other. Sometimes the lesson questions have to be tweaked to allow for participants not being in the same room.

My group has been very successful and we would only delay one week before starting the next segment.”

A complete facilitator training is available online under “Facilitator Resources/Video Training” and also on the first DVD of “The Journey’s” first segment entitled, “The Passenger”.

We believe that the most important thing to remember is what a facilitator is not! A facilitator of “The Journey” or “Binding the Wounds” is not a Pastor/Preacher, a teacher, a parent, a disciplinarian, a counselor, therapist or expert on matters psychological. A facilitator is a member of the group who continues in every class session to work on their own issues, the same as the members in their group. You may be a lesson or two ahead or perhaps you’ve facilitated many groups, but your recovery will continue for a lifetime. You see, human beings peel like the layers of an onion – one at a time – and with each layer that comes off, something new is revealed. There is always something you can learn!

So for your own sake (facilitators grow rapidly) and for the sake of others who are needy, consider taking the challenge. Go into each class depending on God’s presence in the group, confidently expecting that your members will receive the exact help they need, because God promises to supply all our needs. As you see their changes, you will be so gratified that you had a part in their transformation!

Our prayers will be with you as you join the LRI team, offering the tools for emotional healing to the hurting people of the world.
Anne’s Story

Often it takes a crisis for one to ask that age old question of why did this happen to me. Which then begs the question of how did I get into this mess to begin with. Hopefully, this leads to the realization that we need to examine ourselves rather than just rage that the world is unfair. As my friend Ellen says, “Sometimes God sends you a gentle reminder and sometimes he knocks you upside the head”.

I had to be knocked in the head. Four years ago I found my world falling apart. I was desperately trying to save an abusive, dysfunctional marriage and did not have the knowledge or skills to even begin to know how. I reached out to Ellen for help and she sent me tapes of several Rocky seminars. They were full of interesting information and I wanted to learn more. Next she started working through the “Binding the Wounds” 22 week program with me. This was a precursor to the current Journey’s four seminars of ten segments each. We did this weekly over the phone since a group meeting was not close by and I often travel for work. Her time was a gift of love to me. Slowly, I started to shift my focus from one of “his craziness is causing all the problems” to one of “what on earth made me make the choices in life that I have”. I stopped trying to change and control my husband’s behavior and came to the realization that the only person that I could change or control was me---and that I wasn’t doing a very good job of it at that. At this point, I understood that answers could be found. But how to get to those answers eluded me. I needed help.

The marriage didn’t survive, but I did. As I worked my way through the divorce and its aftermath, I ate up LRI programs. They helped me to cope and they made the pain go away. Over the past four years I’ve participated in several LRI programs and seminars.

In looking at my beginnings and understanding their effects, I was able to identify and feel long repressed anger and other emotions. Next, I learned how to release them rather than carry those negative feelings around hidden, bubbling away under my surface. Anger has been replaced with empathy. I am less anxious and less needy. I no longer feel personally responsible for the happiness of others. This has been the best gift ever.

At long last, I am learning who I really am, rather than living up to my ill conceived perception of who I should appear to be. I am learning who God made me to be. It’s so awesome to see that as I have grown emotionally, people have changed their reactions to me. My relationships are healthier. Just like your physics teacher told you, every action has an equal reaction. They really should teach this stuff in school. It would have served me far better than physics class.

If you ask me, it’s much easier without the life crisis. Don’t wait, make the time. I know some who think that they don’t need to examine their beginnings or to better understand their inner selves or to understand how their brain works. They had a good childhood with wonderful parents. So did I. My parents loved me and I had a terrific childhood by many measures. It took me time to understand that I stored feelings in my developing brain through the eyes of a small child. As a child, I was not able to comprehend the adult world or reasons for adult decisions. My parents carried their own emotional wounds to boot. I was a high achieving child who often felt stupid or not good enough because when it came down to it, I wasn’t smart enough to know how to make my parents feel happy. I felt responsible for their feelings. Now, I don’t. It’s that simple, and it’s very freeing.

Currently, I participate in a conference call based group that has completed “The Passenger” and is now working on “The Mode”. Also I facilitate another small phone group that is working on “The Passenger”. The time spent doing this is one of the best parts of my week. Even if the material is not new; I receive it differently each time. With each session, I discover more. Hearing other group member’s talk about their experiences unlocks old memories. In relating to their stories, I learn my own. And often their comments are so thought provoking that I spend the next day mulling them over only to unlock a hidden truth. I am so grateful to each one of them. It is truly a wonderful Journey.

---Anne Stone, Pennsylvania

Letters to the Editor…

I was just looking over the most recent newsletter (May 2008) and was interested in the discussion of spirituality and religion (Have We Arrived?). It's somehow never been difficult for me to define/describe/understand the difference.

The first introduction came in the form of this quote from a drinking man who met God in the mirror one morning: "It has been said that religious people are those who work very hard to please God in order to stay out of hell, and spiritual people are those who really want to know God better because they have already been there."

The second was when a mom shared her feelings with me about her son going to Walla Walla College (knowing what college life is like there -- going to church because you have to). She told him it was more important that he have a spiritual life rather than a religious life.

The third is another quote, recently found and posted on my door at work:

"Religion is a guy in church thinking about fishing. Spirituality is a guy out fishing thinking about God."

Just had to share these with you. ---Share from Oregon
When the good Lord was creating Fathers, He started with a tall frame.

And a female angel nearby said, “What kind of Father is that? If you’re going to make children so close to the ground, why have Fathers up so high? He won’t be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping.”

And God smiled and said, “Yes, but if I make him child-sized, who would children have to look up to?”

And when God made a Father’s hands, they were large and sinewy.

And the angel shook her head sadly and said, “Do you know what You’re doing? Large hands are clumsy. They can’t manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands, or ponytails, or even remove splinters caused by baseball bats.”

And God smiled and said, “I know, but they’re large enough to hold everything a small boy empties form his pockets at the end of a day and yet small enough to cup a child’s face in his hands.”

Then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders.

And the angel shook her head sadly and said, “Do you know what You’re doing? Long legs are troublesome. They don’t fit into a door, or wash a face, or kiss a child.”

And God smiled and said, “A Mother needs a lap. A Father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, or hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus.”

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone ever had seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. “That’s not fair. Do you honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?”

And God smiled and said, “I know, but they’re large enough to hold everything a small boy empties form his pockets at the end of a day and yet small enough to cup a child’s face in his hands.”

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Then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders.

And the angel spat out, “Boy, this is the end of the week all right,” she clucked. “Do You realize, You just made a Father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the child falling between his legs?”

And God smiled and said, “A Mother needs a lap. A Father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, or hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus.”

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Then God nodded. Then He added – tears. Then He turned to the angel and said, “Now are you satisfied that he can love as much as a Mother?”

And the angel was silent.

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"Father Meets the Challenge"

When the good Lord was creating Fathers, He started with a tall frame.

And a female angel nearby said, “What kind of Father is that? If you’re going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put Fathers up so high? He won’t be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping.”

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And God smiled and said, “I know, but they’re large enough to hold everything a small boy empties form his pockets at the end of a day and yet small enough to cup a child’s face in his hands.”

Then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders.

And the angel nearly had a heart attack. “Boy, this is the end of the week all right,” she clucked. “Do You realize, You just made a Father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the child falling between his legs?”

And God smiled and said, “A Mother needs a lap. A Father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, or hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus.”

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone ever had seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. “That’s not fair. Do you honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?”

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And the angel was silent.

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Following is an excerpt of a review of this book found on Amazon.com:

“My sister gave me this book when I was going through my second divorce. It was not "just another self-help book". I have read hundreds of those. This book made sense out of all the confusion and chaos of my entire life. It combines the Rockey's own experiences with the true science of the mind and the emotions and how & why they work, and with the truth about the love of God. This book changed how I felt about myself and others. It gave me understanding about my own frustrating feelings and behaviors that I had never been able to overcome. The book gives 4 steps for overcoming rejection. The first step is gaining knowledge. The second step is applying it to yourself. You'll have to read the book if you want to know the next two steps! Maybe it will change your life too. I only recommend this book for people that have suffered some kind of rejection in their life. That would include YOU!”

If you would like to purchase this book and begin overcoming your feelings of rejection, click here.
Facilitator Resources

As you contemplate facilitating a group we want you to know about the resources available to you to make your experience successful and enjoyable. If you are currently a facilitator or have never facilitated before, you will find a variety of useful tools, resources, tips, FAQ’s, etc. on our website. Click here to become a registered facilitator of LRI. Once registered, you will be able to access the following features:

Facilitator FAQs - Answers questions like: Why should I be a facilitator? What jobs/ task will I do as a facilitator? What do I do if someone exhibits bizarre behavior? How can I talk with other facilitators? If you don’t find an answer to a question you have, email me at audrey@yourLRI.com

Facilitator Test - In order to get a facilitator number; you will need to take a brief 22 question test. This will validate for you that you understand the concepts and process of facilitating a group. You will have access to aides, supplements, and opportunities to connect with other facilitators, facilitator conference calls, class member registration, and other features.

Facilitator Forum - Here you will be able to connect with other facilitators, share tips, post questions, answer someone else’s questions, etc. In short, support one another in the facilitation process. A feature still under development will make it possible for you to participate in conference calls with an experienced facilitator periodically.

Your Groups – We ask that you post new groups getting ready to start. Once your group has started, register your group participant’s email address here with their permission. They will get a congratulatory email upon completion of the group and will be added to our contact list to get the monthly newsletter, notices of upcoming seminars, and any other communications we send out.

Facilitator Resources- Includes 4 categories: Facilitation Aides, Promotional Materials, Video Training, and Written Training. Some of the resources included are:

- **In Touch With You** – questions to help with check in time, plus a “feelings” page
- **Closing Prayer** – for those coming from a Christian perspective
- **Recommendations for Facilitators** – answers many of the questions on how to conduct your group.
- **Contract of Understanding** – to be signed by each class member at the beginning of each segment. (included in individual workbooks also.)
- **Letter for Participants** – letter from Ron and Nancy to be given to each participant at the start of each segment.
- **Should We Recover** – help in answering pastors, counselors and others on why the recovery process is necessary.
- **Group Certificates** – to be given to group members at the end of each segment to show completion of the group. See example below.
- **Videos** for download:
  - **Facilitator Training introduction** - Discusses the fundamentals of the group process.
  - **Facilitator Training** - The “nitty-gritty” of the group process.
  - **Demonstration of a Small Group** – Watch a real group in action.
  - **What I’ve learned as a Facilitator** – a personal experience, includes useful techniques.

Included on these pages are some promotional materials to help you in promoting your group in your area. More promotional materials will be made available as they are developed.

Register today as a facilitator, browse the pages, and give us feedback. Send any comments, questions, or suggestions to audrey@yourLRI.com These resources are to help you become a successful facilitator. If there is something you don’t see that would be helpful to you, please let us know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Advice to Fathers
Spread the diaper in the position of the diamond with you at bat. Then fold second base down to home and set the baby on the pitcher's mound. Put first base and third together, bring up home plate and pin the three together. Of course, in case of rain, you gotta call the game and start all over again.

- Jimmy Piersal, on how to diaper a baby, 1968
The Route

In recognition of

who has completed the third segment of:

"The Journey"

Where you learned how physical, sexual
and/or emotional abuse has impacted you.

On this ___ day of ______, 20____

Facilitator

---

ATTACHMENT

Summit Northwest Ministries
8311 N Idaho Rd.,
Newman Lake, WA 99025

Sept. 19
6:30 – 9:30 pm

Identify your style of attachment
Locate what contributed to your choice

Sept. 20
1:15 – 9:15 pm
(Grants available)

Feeling detached?
Unable to connect?
Feeling alone?
Unsure how you formed your relationship?

Register by Aug. 15
$59
After Aug. 15
$89

Acceptance

Walla Walla University
Fine Arts Center
299 S College Ave., College Place, WA 99324

Oct. 25
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Includes lunch

What produces feelings of rejection?
How does rejection manifest itself?
Get tools to turn rejection into acceptance
Replace hopelessness with hope.

TO REGISTER:
http://www.yourLRI.com
1-888-8000LRI (5741)

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http://www.yourLRI.com
1-888-8000LRI (5741)

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**Note: All pictures used with permission

http://www.yourLRI.com
Name
Address

Phone ___________________________ E-mail ___________________________

[ ] Visa/MasterCard ___________________________ Expiration Date ____________ [ ] Check attached # ____________

Orders over $100=Free Shipping - or - add $6 for first item and $2 for each additional item

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Subtotal of Workbooks and AV from Reverse $ ____________

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Life Renewal Institute
251 Stenton Avenue
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462