

Ninth Annual Gregory Stockmal Reading

featuring Pam Bernard



**Wednesday, October 18
7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Clark University
Grace Room
Higgins University Center
950 Main Street, Worcester**

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

The impeded stream is the one that sings.

- Wendell Berry

Goodbye to the bedroom, dark
and drafty, wakening always
to shame—no call for help, no
sound at all—to the myths,
molded to keep the children

quiet. Goodbye to the covenant
breakers, the apologists
and deniers, evaders smug
in their corners, to the liars
and harmers, to the do-nothings.

Goodbye to users and exploiters,
manhandlers and promisers,
to deceivers and those
who scar and debase, whose
dominance wins every time.

May rain climb the foothills. May
the mongrel who once menaced
the back meadow of the children's
dreams wag its whole body
toward them, smiling.



Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Goddard Library,
Clark University, the Gregory Stockmal Fund and the
Worcester County Poetry Association.

