

Smiths @ The Springs

July 2019

Usefulness Returns

Since my left shoulder surgery in the middle of March, I (Jerry) have completed my Occupational Therapy and have been cleared by the surgeon to take care of my rehabilitation at home. I exercise every morning, along with Nancy for her spine related pain, and am limited to 10 lbs. I have enjoyed getting going again on many of my normal duties. There are still heavy tasks that need to be done, so The Springs has hired a part-time brother in Christ to help out 3 days a week. I will see the surgeon again in the middle of September to see how the healing of the rotator cuff is progressing. Until then, I am trying to be **useful** in any way I can.

Retreat Season in Full Swing

The warm months of June – October are the busiest of the year. In fact, there are only a few week days available in August and September, and weekends are booked through November. It is a mix of pastors on personal retreat, couples without the kids, families, small and large groups of men and women; all here to enjoy God and each other. Of course this means frequent cabin cleaning, and on the full days, we have a volunteer couple come to help Nancy with the task of getting 4 cabins ready by the time the next guests arrive.



Sharpen the Blades

Mower blades, chainsaw chains, chipper knives, brush hog blade, and my pocket knife; they all need to be sharp to be most **useful**. At The Springs these tools are needed all year long, so I do my best to keep them sharp, and ready. The same goes for my spiritual sharpness; I must allow God and others to sharpen me so that I can be ready and **useful**. There have been times during my recovery that I became dull, and found it hard to love myself and others around me. I became



critical and found it easy to set my mind on the flesh and not the Spirit. Recognizing my dullness, Nancy and I have begun to sharpen each other by spending time studying the cross and forgiveness. I can feel the edge coming back with each stroke of the Master's hand.

"Thank you for opening your property to a small church with a very tight budget. If it wasn't for your ministry many of our people would not have an opportunity to enjoy this beauty and peace. It was a great space for team building and bible study"

Real Life Church - June 3-6, 2019

Prayers are Powerful

- ✚ Praise –We have been able to spend quality time with our grandchildren
- ✚ Praise God for the part-time and volunteer help during this time of recovery
- ✚ Praise God for healing in Jerry's shoulder
- ✚ Praise God for sharpening our spirits and for making us useful
- ✚ Pray for continued healing and for self-control for Jerry not to lift too much
- ✚ Pray for Nancy's strength to do her work
- ✚ Pray for the Guests who come in the spirit of retreat

Jerry & Nancy Smith

The Springs Operating Managers

8173 Davison Road Oldenburg, IN 47036

jerrynancy.smith85@gmail.com / 503-504-3171

To send support you can use this link:

<http://www.thespringsindiana.org/support.html>



Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need.

Practice Hospitality.

Romans 12:12-13