

Smiths @ The Springs

November 2019

Recent Projects

This summer and fall have been busy with guests coming and going, as is always the case around the Springs. In the midst of this activity we have had some projects that have improved the buildings and the grounds. We installed a new lake aeration system to help reduce the pond scum. With the help of volunteers from Calvary Community Church and a friend from Michigan, our Staff House, Garage, and Maintenance Barn were stained and a deck leveled and boardwalk built. There were two fields that needed new landscaping. The Gathering Space has been upgraded with water in a deep sink to give the guests a place to wash their dishes. Jerry has been coached by his daughter Erin to treat the two horses that are having medical problems. Bailey has daily hoof care, and Tiger needs his dose of antibiotics with a syringe in his mouth. Jerry feels like a journeyman farrier and veterinarian.



Changes in Focus

The board members at The Springs recently made a change in the ministry focus for the future. Our focus is on providing a sacred retreat space for Christian Ministry Staff and Leaders. Beginning in January, *we will not be accepting reservations for families*. This will give more opportunity for individuals, couples, and groups to find a registration date that works for them. In addition the tag line: *A Place to Return To*, will be replaced with, *A Place For Retreat*.



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

Family Matters

Jerry is in “full swing” with his rehabilitated shoulder. Nancy does her best to keep up with all the registration requests; all the while cleaning the cabins and keeping a fresh supply of linens washed and folded. Erin, our daughter along with her daughter Emmeline, has made several trips to The Springs to care for the horses. We are thankful for her expert care and advice.



A Time For Thanksgiving



Gathering Space project with water, oven, and new floor.

We have much to be thankful for. God has blessed us with physical healing, energy for service, and generous financial support provided by friends, family members, and churches. The color in the trees this season was particularly brilliant. There were generous donors who covered the cost of the large projects we completed this year. The help of volunteers has given us the physical and emotional boost we need as the labors increase.

“I thoroughly enjoyed this experience of silence and solitude w/the LORD-it was my 1st time and it won't be my last time – my soul has been longing for this for a long time & I am sorry it took so long for me to do this, but I am glad to have had this beautiful place to retreat to with the Lord – Thank you for making this possible! By the way, I especially loved the Labyrinth & the Chapel! And the Invitation to Retreat book & the Sanctuary In Time: A Sabbath Retreat Guidebook were especially helpful as well. God Bless!”

~ from one of our guests

Prayers are Powerful

- ✚ Praise – God has healed Jerry's shoulder
- ✚ Praise – God has allowed us to serve a record number of guests this summer (71% occupancy)
- ✚ Praise – We have been adequately supported so far this year.
- ✚ Pray for – The future of the Springs as we celebrate 10 years in 2020
- ✚ Pray for – Unity within the Staff of The Springs
- ✚ Pray for – The many health-related problems related to an aging work force at The Springs

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To send support you can use this link:
<http://www.thespringsindiana.org/support.html>

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