



Our Sacred Space
Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center Newsletter

SEASONS

Published Quarterly

Volume 1, Issue 3 • May 15, 2010

Turning Seasons

What an incredible turn of seasons! We've gone from snow to mowing in no time.

As I wrote last quarter's Turning Seasons article, we were preparing to attend the Marshalltown area Spring Bridal Fair; although it didn't feel much like spring then.

Of the 150 brides-to-be attending the Fair with their future grooms and family members, very few were familiar with the facilities available at Pilgrim Heights. So, our primary objective was to inform the participants that we are not just "that church camp"; but, a full-service conference center with facilities and services that include an:

- ✿ Indoor or Outdoor Chapel
- ✿ Reception Hall
- ✿ Catering Service
- ✿ Bridal Party Preparation Areas
- ✿ Outdoor Photo Opportunities
- ✿ Wagon Transport on Grounds
- ✿ Overnight Lodging available for out-of-town guests



To illustrate both ends of the spectrum of services available at Pilgrim Heights, we gave away treat bags with either s'mores or petit fours. Several attendees revisited our table to inquire about more information and occasionally to pick up a second treat bag. The consensus was both the s'mores and petit fours were very scrumptious!

We hosted the first wedding of the year on February 14th. This intimate family wedding was held in Oak Lodge. Guests enjoyed this unique setting with the roaring fire in the stone fireplace and the sight of snow outside on the ground as they looked out the east and north walls of windows.

On April 24th with spring in full bloom, we hosted the



Kern/Havran wedding reception that featured a bridal party procession led by bagpipes and snare drum. Rob Clower and his sons David (12 yr) and Tommy (9 yr) are members of the Turlach Ur Pipe Band from Grinnell, IA. Check out their website at <http://www.turlachur.com/>

Now, two months after the Bridal Fair, we have booked an additional six weddings and/or receptions to be held in 2010 or 2011. This year alone, we are delighted to be the venue for 15 weddings / receptions.

Every wedding and reception is as unique and radiant as the bride and groom on their wedding day; and Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center is a beautiful backdrop for that special event.



Summer Camp Wish List:

- Various pieces & sizes of muslin
- Self-drying clay
- 1" or 1 1/4" PVC pipe in 12-16" lengths
- Colored duct tape
- 1" or 1 5/8" construction screws
- Old window/door screen
- Tempra paint
- Fabric paint
- Posterboard
- Pieces of heavy cardboard
- Crochet thread (for friendship bracelets)

Adopt-A-Cabin

We have 20 buildings on-site built between 1940 and 2001. No matter what their age, buildings need ongoing investment to keep them functioning.

Any group, individual, or organization is welcome to Adopt-A-Cabin to help ensure that care. Why don't you?

By adopting a cabin, you or your organization agrees to take on the upkeep of that building, each year making one approved improvement in the cabin, be it the physical structure or the furnishings. The itemized cost of needed improvements for each cabin is available; and we can find a fit for you, your budget and timeline. Donations and sweat-equity are welcome! Your efforts will be acknowledged by display on or in the cabin and on our website.

Shagbark – our Year-round Bunkhouse, built in 1965 to sleep up to 26 people, has been adopted by St. John's United Church of Christ in Clarence, Iowa! A great big Thank You for an exciting partnership that will provide comfort for many!



Spring Clean-Up Day...A Big Success!

Despite the cool weather, we had the largest turn-out in recent years for Spring Clean-up on Saturday, May 8th. A big thank you to the following people who spent part of their Mother's Day weekend with us at Pilgrim Heights:

- Caitlyn Hocraffer, Kristin & Kathryn Shields, Phil Spike and Bill Yungclas from Ames
- Joshua Epault and David Mears from Clarence
- Emma Dambek, Carl Iverson and Matt Perkins from Decorah
- David, Lisa & Lila Meyer and Kathy & Milton Meyer from Denver
- Emily Ghrist and Jane Meyer from Des Moines
- Jim Ahrens, Bob Anderson, Julie Eberbach, and Lyle & Judy Kuehl from Grinnell
- Mike & Joyce Myer from Iowa City; Barb & Jon Muhs from Lowden
- Greg, Lynnette & Tylor Boheman from Monticello
- Greg & Ann Graham from Montour
- Nancyjo Crook from Runnells
- Allan & Kerrie Bash from Shenandoah
- Jerimi & Jackie Kopsa from Tama
- Lynnette Harwick from Toledo
- Paul Fuller from Waterloo
- Nicole Betteridge from Waverly
- Barbara Klein from South Pasadena, California.

An abundance of projects were completed including:

- Weeding, planting and mulching near Hickory Lodge, Autumn House, Vesper Point and the waterfront
- Mowing, weed eating and trimming trees

- Splitting wood; Eradicating locust trees on the dam
- Installing counter top in the Laundry
- Installing baseboard in Hickory Lodge
- Painting bathrooms in Hickory Lodge
- Installing storage Cabinets in Autumn House
- Organizing bedding & towels
- Washing windows in Oak and Cedar Lodges
- Replacing the bathroom floor in Shagbark

If you missed work weekend and would still like to lend a helping hand, you don't have to wait until next spring. There is always a revolving list of projects to suit a wide range of talents. Just contact Lynnette or Ann at 641-492-6165 or ContactUs@PilgrimHeights.org to make arrangements for your work day.

Mow Friends

Victor and Brenda White who serve at the Mesquakie Friends Center in Toledo organize a week-long summer camping adventure for the youth of the center as well as other regional Indian nations. In prior years, the campers drove to Arizona and stayed in tents at a facility with limited bathrooms and showers.

In exchange for lodging for the week, the Mesquakie Friends Center provides mowing service for Pilgrim Heights for the summer. Each week Victor and his son Travis spend many hours mowing and trimming to ensure the grounds are beautiful for all of our participants throughout the summer.

Last year, approximately 60 people attended Soaring Eagles Camp from around the region including: Mesquakie from Tama-Toledo, IA; Ho-Chunk from Black River Falls, WI; Ojibway from Hayward, WI; and Ojibway from Ft. Hope, Canada.

Camp pastors Jay Mule and Warren Pratt from Pawnee, brought counselors for camp. The M.T., Bangor and LeGrand Friends ladies provided delicious cookies and bars.

Soaring Eagles Camp proved to be a wonderful experience for all. The counselors and campers enjoyed sleeping in cabins rather than in tents and appreciated having adequate showers and bathroom facilities. Throughout the week the Soaring Eagles took day-trips to area attractions, played, worshiped and praised God.



The partnership worked so well for both the Mesquakie Friends Center and Pilgrim Heights that on June 20th - 26th the Soaring Eagles Camp will again be held at Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center.

Save the Date!

This year, the Soaring Eagles will be inviting the local community to join them Wednesday night, June 23rd for a native dinner and dance. If you are able, we would love to see you there.

Our Focus on Friends page this quarter highlights our "Service-for-Service" program at Pilgrim Heights.

The Service-for-Service program is a mutually beneficial program in which participants' volunteer time toward pre-determined work projects for a reduction in facilities fees.

Many of our participants are nonprofit groups or individuals with limited resources; many are interested in building group relationships among those coming on-site; and others simply want to incorporate the value of giving-back into their experience at Pilgrim Heights. The participants in the program benefit not only by a financial savings; but also by an enhanced experience while on-site. Working together toward a common goal and investing their time and talents builds a stronger bond among the group as well as with OSS /Pilgrim Heights.

Our organization benefits through the direct results of the work projects as well as by an increase in the number of participants and a higher level of satisfaction with the experience while at Pilgrim Heights.

The pioneering Service-for-Service program is indicative of the innovation out of which Our Sacred Space, Inc. was born.

Men's Christian Experience Weekend (CEW)

From April 30th through May 2nd, approximately 50 men from St. Henry's and St. Mary's Churches in Marshalltown, St. Cecelia's in Ames and St. Patrick's in Tama gathered for the first time at Pilgrim Heights in a shared religious experience for spiritual renewal.

The CEW retreat grew out of the realization that the Christian life needs to be experienced before it can be properly appreciated. The renewal of one's life in Christ is the focus as each participant examines his or her relationship with God, self, and others. Since the Christian life is a community life, it is best experienced with other companions on the journey!

CEW is an opportunity to discover and develop insights into questions inside of you about yourself, your faith life and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. It is a way to nourish one's individual spirituality and be a part of the greater Christian community that Jesus came to establish on earth.

Over the past year, dedicated men from area parishes have

volunteered 400 hours in service work at Pilgrim Heights to offset the cost of lodging for their 3-day 2-night retreat. They



have invested their time and talents over numerous weekends to clear trees and brush, winterize buildings, paint, rectify water drainage problems, etc...

Through service in community, we have built or strengthened our relationships with friends, enjoyed fellowship together and mourned the loss of a beloved brother in Christ, Lenny Underhill.

"The peace and availability of God was found to everyone that opened their hearts."

-- Deacon Gary

Thank You Lenny!

Lenny Underhill was an instrumental leader in getting the Service-for-Service program started at Pilgrim Heights with the Men's CEW group. His "can-do" attitude was contagious to all who knew Lenny.



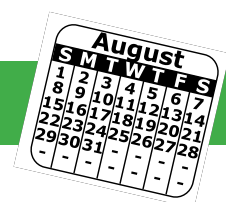
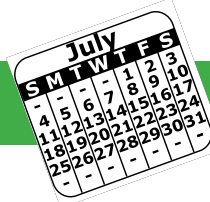
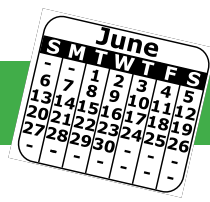
The rest of the men in the CEW group picked up the organizational and work efforts after Lenny's passing, and continue his work. In memory of Lenny, a stained glass butterfly was dedicated at Pilgrim Heights during the



CEW event in May, representing how Lenny transformed our lives while he lived among us.



Mark Your Calendar



Prime Time Camp

*If you are an adult age 55 or older,
Come for a Day or Come for a Week!*
Tuesday, July 27 - Saturday, July 31

- Leaders include: Wilma Graden, Audrey Kuhl & Rev. John Saxton - plus other great activity presenters!

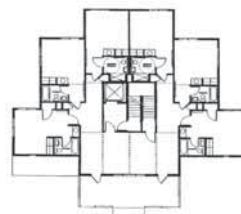
Program Topics include:

- Life as a Blind Man
- African Safari
- Inner City Mission Trip
- Tour of Tama County
- Talent Show with the MAD Campers

Optional Activities include:

- Labyrinth walk
- Yoga • Mandala
- Campfire & Games
- Swimming & Boating
- Make a Quilt from your old camp T-shirts & blue jeans!

Bring your old camp t-shirts, old blue jeans, scissors & cutting wheels



- Stay in the air-conditioned comfort of Autumn House.



SAVE THE DATE!!

- Autumn Harvest Weekend
October 1 - 3, 2010
- UCC Confirmation Retreat
October 22-24, 2010

Dates & Times for Agenda
available soon!

2010 Summer Camp Schedule

	Grade refers to grade completed 2009-2010 school year												YA	Adult	Senior		
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11				12	
Week 1 June 20-26			Indoor Outpost June 20-22										CIT June 25-27				
Week 2 June 27-July 3	Overnight I June 28-29			3-4 Fun June 28 - July 2				Outpost II June 27 - July 3									
	K-3 Grandparent June 27-28															K-3 Grandparent June 27-28	
Week 3 July 4 - 10			Overnight II July 8-10		4-6 Fun July 4-10						Challenge II July 4-10						
											Family Camp July 5-7						
Week 4 July 11-17								Project Aware July 10-17									
					Games I July 11-17			Games II July 11-17						YA Challenge July 14-18			
Week 5 July 18 - 24					Outpost I July 18-24			Challenge I July 18-24		9-12 Fun July 18-24							
			K-3 Grandparent July 19-20													K-3 Grandparent July 19-20	
Week 6 July 25 - 31	Overnight I July 30-31				MAD I July 25-31			MAD II July 25-31								Prime Time July 27-31	
			4-8 Grandparent July 25-27													4-8 Grandparent July 25-27	
	Friend & Me July 29-30				Friend & Me July 27-29											Friend & Me July 27-30	
Week 7 Aug 1 - 7			Overnight II Aug 1-3		Water Camp Aug 1-7												
							6-8 Fun Camp Aug 1-7										

• \$25 First time camper discount!
• Scholarship funds available through Pilgrim Heights