



# Laity Connections®

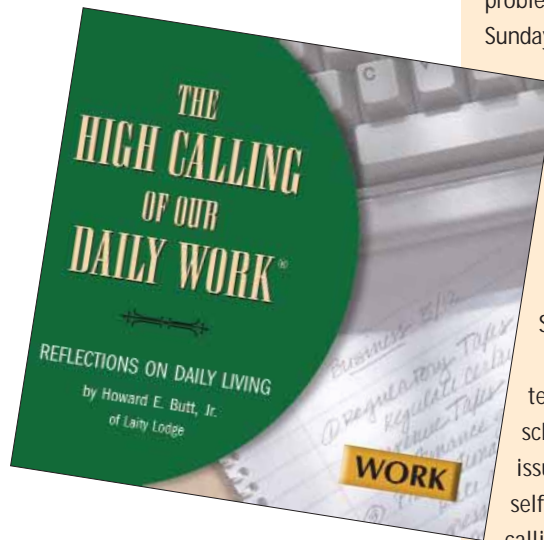
A PUBLICATION OF LAITY LODGE PROGRAMS AND THE H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION

## The High Calling of Our Daily Work® Offers a Labor Day Sunday Program for Churches

by Dan Roloff, Publishing Manager  
email: [droloff@laitylodge.org](mailto:droloff@laitylodge.org)

Does my work matter to God? Does it glorify him? What does it mean to take God to work with me? If you ever ask yourself questions like these, take heart! You are not alone. Every day, thousands of Christians question the relative value of their livelihood. They question the significance of what they do with their waking hours. Many Christians trudge through the week simply longing for the weekend to arrive. What a waste to go through life thinking one's work is only a means to provide food for our family!

Foundation president Howard E. Butt, Jr.—of whom Billy Graham said recently, “It was you [Howard] who pioneered workplace ministry so many years ago”—has dedicated his life to answering these questions for millions of people all over the world. His work with officers of large public corporations, his books, the website *TheHighCalling.org*, and *The High Calling of Our Daily Work* radio spots all answer these questions. Also, Laity Lodge has long served churches and individuals by helping Christians know Jesus deeply and serve him in the everyday places of their lives.



In recent years we've noticed an increasing disconnect between career business people in the workplace and the local church. Many of these believers are now in the growing group of “unchurched” Christians.

Why is this disconnect occurring? At Laity Lodge we hear comments like, “My church doesn't seem to care about my work. Does God care about what I do for a living?” From our observations, these voices long to know whether their work even matters—or is it simply a means to make a living? Unfortunately, as Christ's church, we tend to ignore these questions.

*Continued on page 4*

## Thank God It's Monday!

by Dave Williamson, Director of Laity Lodge  
email: [dwilliamson@laitylodge.org](mailto:dwilliamson@laitylodge.org)

A Pittsburgh business executive wakes up one Monday morning with a problem. He needs God's help, but it isn't Sunday. As a faithful church member, he suddenly realizes that he's relegated God to explicitly religious activities. And he asks himself, “Does God care about my profit margins and cash flow statements on Monday as much as he cares about my offering on Sunday?”

On Wednesday after school, a teacher in Plano is anguishing with a school administrator over a policy issue that deeply affects one student's self-esteem and the teacher's sense of calling. She needs God's peace and wisdom in that public school hallway. But she wonders, “Is God present and available in the middle of the week at a public school?”

On Saturday morning, a homeowner's association meets with the city's zoning commission and the Mayor's task force on low-income housing. Tempers flare. Accusations and insults fly. One city employee can't believe how ugly the meeting gets. Where is God? Does he care about these neighborhoods and property owners? Does he care about city planning and housing for the poor?

Does God care about Monday through Saturday as much as he cares about Sunday? Is Jesus interested in the well-being of cities, families, workplaces, and schools as well as sanctuaries and

*Continued on page 2*

**“This September, we launch Labor Day Sunday, a new initiative to support and encourage churches, pastors, and lay people.”**

## Thank God It's Monday!

Continued from page 1

churches? Does Christ value our work and leisure as much as our worship and prayer?

Is there a connection between Sunday and Monday?

Yes! Jesus Christ is Lord of the weekday as well as the Sabbath. He is God's agent for creation. All things were made by him and

worshipped when we sit at the dinner table and not just when you come to the communion table. You may go days without thinking of him, but there's never a moment when he's not thinking of you."

The incarnation did not happen in a synagogue, in the presence of a priest on a

Worship begins on Sunday and continues through the week in our work, play, and in all the ordinary relationships of daily life. Church is not a sanctuary to take us out of the world. Rather, it is a place and time to reflect and celebrate what God has been doing the previous week. And to prepare for what God will do in the next week.

What a wonderful rhythm God has given us. We begin each week focusing together on God's grace. We gather together as his church to worship, equip, inform, and encourage.

Like a sports team, we study the film. We debrief last week's game. We celebrate the team's successes and individual gifts. We confess our mistakes. But that's not all. The team prepares for the next week. Our coach offers instruction and additional training. Someone inspires the team with a pep talk. And we all leave the locker room ready to play another week.

God calls Christians to practice his presence every day. Listen to him and to

### **"Does God care about Monday through Saturday as much as he cares about Sunday?"**

for him. Without him, not one thing came into being (John 1:3). In the creation narrative, God is busy working for six days before he creates the Sabbath. Certainly, God was present and active those first six days. Certainly, he blessed those first six days when "God saw all that he had made and it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). God valued the first six days as much as the seventh day.

We are created in the image of God, and God is a worker, a potter, a farmer, a shepherd, a vintner, an architect, a metalworker, a builder, and a carpenter. God forms and orders community. He ordains and supports family. In Jesus, God redeems every area of life and is in the process of transforming it to his will.

I love these simple words Max Lucado writes in *Grace for the Moment*: "Heaven knows no difference between Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon. God longs to speak as clearly in the workplace as he does in the sanctuary. He longs to be

Sabbath morning—during a transcendent prayer of praise—but in a farmer's barn, in the presence of animals, a young working-class couple, visited by shepherds and aristocratic academics.

I discovered one of my favorite nativities in the lobby of a hotel, "Le Creche des Santons de Provence." This kind of nativity portrays the holy family being visited not only by magi and shepherds, but by the baker and his wife, a brigand, basket weaver, fruit seller, hunter,

florist, fisherman, mayor, and many other provincial workers. They all bring gifts representing their trade or profession. Whatever they produce during the week, this is what they offer in honor of the Christ.

So, too, for us. We offer our work, our family, our leisure, and our everyday lives in honor of Christ. Whatever we do in word or deed, we do it all in the name of Jesus, thanking God for our work (Col. 3:17).

Paul tells us, "Here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering" (Rom. 12:1-2, Msg).

### **"As we serve God and each other, we grow more unified. As we grow more unified, our service becomes more excellent."**

your own life. Say quietly, "thanks" or "help." Look for the subtle evidences of God in surprising places and people: a flower growing through a crack on a city sidewalk, a simple act of courtesy or generosity on a freeway or in an elevator.

Every joy can be an invitation to praise, every mistake an invitation to confession, every table a reminder of the Lord's table.

God cares about the quality of our life on Wednesday morning and Saturday night and Sunday morning. He cares about our participation in the marketplace and our participation in the worship space. He cares about our celebrations and our sacrifices and our praise and our thanksgiving.

You don't have to wonder, "Does God care about my daily life?" He does. Every day!



# Some Thoughts from Howard E. Butt, Jr. . . .

## Sunday, Monday Faith

Is our Christianity a part-time affair, a “Sunday morning faith”? Is following Jesus Christ a part-time activity? What keeps us from God on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday?

Often it’s the single best thing about us—our job, family, fun, or church—gone overboard, taken to extremes, turned to excess. This “best thing” then produces an imbalance in the rest of our lives and relationships. It has become an idolatry. Martin Luther said that the human mind is an idol-manufacturing machine.

A real relationship with Jesus Christ—by contrast—is an all-absorbing dynamic that transforms everything we do. Christianity is not a way of doing special things; it’s a special way of doing everything.

For most of us, life involves many elements: work, marriage, kids, church duties, civic responsibilities, hobbies, investments. Is our faith just another item on the list?

No. For sure, not. God does not call us just to a Sunday faith, but a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday faith, too. Every part of our daily lives depends on the foundation of a pervasive, calm, wisdom-producing faith.

Years ago, when I was a young lay preacher, I often heard a disturbing comment. “Poor Howard,” people said. “He can’t decide whether he wants to be a preacher or a groceryman.” Now I felt called to the ministry of preaching—but I felt called to serve God in the grocery business, too. The grocery business, though, to many seemed only a means of making a living. Nuts-and-bolts existence. Store operations. Merchandising. Advertising. Commonplace. Ordinary. These well-meaning friends wanted to pigeon-hole me into one easy-to-explain role.

But God taught me to rejoice in my

down-to-earth, nuts-and-bolts, Monday-through-Saturday ordinariness. Jesus did. In fact, what offended the Jews about Jesus was his everyday ordinariness. He came from lowly Galilee; he worked in a family business; he refused to perform miracles on demand. He wasn’t spectacular enough, religious enough, or macho enough to suit them. He was simply too commonplace, for goodness sake—out of carpentry and construction! Like many of us, the religious leaders of Jesus’ day refused to see God’s commonplace glory.

Today, the resurrected Christ offers us our own commonplace glory.

We experience this glory through Jesus when we include him in all that we do. Certainly,

we include God when we assemble for Sunday congregational worship as “the church gathered.” But what about during the week, when the church disperses into its everywhere-else relationships as “the church scattered”? The church scattered is the ordinary you. And that is where Christ calls us to change our world.

Clergy and laity alike, we’re all the people of God, scattered. Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and come after me” (Matt. 16:24). That sounds to me like a full-time job, involving every aspect of our lives. We have a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as much as we do on Sunday.

The New Testament was not written in the special, exalted, literary, classical Greek of its day. Instead, we find it in koiné Greek, the language of the commonplace and ordinary—the language of the marketplace.

Many years ago, I spoke at Southern Methodist University in Dallas for its Religious Emphasis Week. Afterward, in a



PHOTO BY PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY

smaller discussion group, one student asked, “Mr. Butt, you’re here with us this week, preaching, praying, and discussing God. But next week you’ll be returning to your job in the grocery business. My question is this: Do you feel closer to God now, with us here at this conference, than you will next week when you return to your business?”

That’s a great question. Am I closer to God when surrounded by believers of like minds and hearts, all convening to talk solely about God? Is my work in the office somehow less spiritual? I said, “Well, if I am closer to God this week than I will be next week, then there’s something terribly wrong with our relationship!” That vision sounds reasonable, but it takes more than just wishful thinking. It takes conscious commitments to allow God into every aspect of our lives.

A remarkable thing happens when we commit ourselves totally to God, to seek his will, to put him first, to love him more—all day every day of the week. When we love God more than our daily work, we become more innovative in it. Loving God more than our marriages will make each of us a better husband or wife. Worshipping God above any organization renews and strengthens it for the task at hand. C. S. Lewis said: “When first things are put first, second things do not become less, but more.”

God wants us to make our everyday lives sacred . . . not just on Sunday, but every day of the week. If we do that, we’ll find the commonplace glory of our ordinary, Monday-through-Sunday lives. Jesus called it here-and-now eternal life.

# What's My Job? And Where's My Work?

by Dan Roloff, Publishing Manager  
email: droloff@laitylodge.org

In my late 20s, my job as a camp director consumed me, something I justified by including my wife. Summers we worked together, and the rest of the year I kept her up on all the staff and work. We co-enmeshed into my job, and I remember it as a great time. In fact, I loved our life. So in our mid-30s, when our first child appeared, I expected to continue my routine with the happy addition of thinking about our daughter. And until then, my wife would have been willing to let me.

Our world, however, was irreversibly changed. Suddenly I had a job and a family. And in the slow, painful process of bringing them into balance, I came to see that our work in this world is not defined by a job. My work would be to build the Kingdom of God. Instead of asking what job God had given me, the upending impact of fatherhood led me to ponder what unique circumstances



he had put me in to do his work.

Building a home, tending to a marriage, rearing a child, maintaining a house, and more were all vitally important to the Kingdom. What's more, my place in the community required participation. In addition to my job, therefore, my work would consume my entire life.

In those days, my prayer and reflection spurred frequent new questions and considerations. Where are we to spend our time? "Making a family life, serving an employer,

affecting other lives," I answered. And my notions of work continued to mature neither quickly nor painlessly; yet I do believe it came in obedience.

Where is my work? Now I would say: look around. A marvelous employer pays me for my efforts on the job; a wonderful wife endures my sometimes dense awareness; two precious daughters absorb my attention. I have community boards and committees, regular involvement with people at stores, the theater, wherever life takes me. Every situation requires faithful response, even recreation. Here, now, all this is the work God gives me. I fail frequently to live up to this great trust, but God knows my intention to live a life in Christ with the help and encouragement of the Holy Spirit and to help build his Kingdom.

Amen.

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## The High Calling of Our Daily Work . . .

*Continued from page 1*

In answer to these questions, Laity Lodge is pleased to announce a new phase of Howard Butt's quest to encourage all of us in our search to bring our love of Christ into our workplace as well as our daily lives. This September, we launch Labor Day Sunday, a new initiative to support and encourage churches, pastors, and lay people.

As Howard Butt puts it, "If we are to spread our love of Christ to all that we do, we have to learn how to take what we hear, learn, and see on Sunday and translate it to what we do all week long. Church is not just a building with walls and a ceiling, it is our personal relationship with Christ and all that he stands for. Our vision is very simple: make Labor Day Sunday a special event in the life of the church, one where all of us will gain new insight and encouragement for whatever we do for the rest of the week."

Many may interpret encouraging faith

in the workplace to mean hard-sell evangelism. Of course, sharing our faith with others is important, but this concept is much more than strategies of evangelizing. Howard desires to help encourage the faithful in their work. Our ordinary jobs—like our ordinary lives—matter to God. The message for this Labor Day Sunday:

- Your church cares and understands the struggles of the workplace
- Your work is important to God
- Your work is important to the church leadership team
- The church can help support Christians with a better understanding of how God is in their everyday lives

Pastors in churches throughout our region have received our Labor Day Sunday program offer inviting them to participate by ordering a special package that will help address their members' work life. This new

concept will benefit both the individual church as well as its members by:

- Demonstrating a greater sense of caring for the members and their life at work
- Providing an opportunity to enlarge the members' spiritual life by connecting Christianity at work to Christianity outside of work
- Providing an opportunity for church members to encourage their coworkers
- Providing a new yearly event in the life of the church

If your pastor has not received the material about this program, please let us know by email at [LaborDaySunday@TheHighCalling.org](mailto:LaborDaySunday@TheHighCalling.org), or by calling 1-800-945-2489.

# Love and Work

by Earl Palmer

Here is an unforgettable integrity sentence from St. Paul: “We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 1:2-3). Paul matches faith, hope, and love—key words of the Christian gospel—with work, labor, and endurance. “Work” is the Greek word *erg*, with which Paul urges us to make an event of our faith. “Endurance” is *upomeno*—to hang in there and to hang on; Paul matches endurance to hope. The middle word that he ties to love is *kares*—Greek for “labor with sweat,” the no-easy-way of hard work.

What does Paul want us to know from this hard work advice? When I reflect on the fourth commandment, “Six days thou shalt labor . . . ,” it seems he is saying that for love to happen it needs six days out of seven as just plain hard work.

A few years ago, I had a conversation with the wranglers in charge of the horses at one of the InterVarsity Ranch camps in Alberta, Canada. We talked about the hors-



Representing horse camp in a cold Alberta winter.

They were also cheered by this question as they answered me that the horses loved to be ridden in the winter at below-zero temperatures. One final sentence really struck me. “Of course, after every ride it is very important to walk them around and completely wipe them down so their sweat doesn’t chill them.”

Right then I realized that wrangling

**“Hard work enables us to develop our full stride as human beings. Through work, young people develop their particular skills and talents.”**

es and Alberta’s cold winter weather. I observed, “You keep horses in barns during the winter months, don’t you?”

The wranglers enjoyed the next few minutes telling me that, quite to the contrary, the horses stayed outside during winter. “We have trees on the range where they keep out of the worst wind.”

Amazed, I followed my first question with what I thought was a reasonable second: “But you don’t ride them in the winter, do you?”

horses at 30 degrees below zero is hard work, and not everyone is up to it. In fact, all work is hard sometimes. Nevertheless, if it is honest work, it is good. “Sweat is one thing money can’t buy.”

Hard work enables us to develop our full stride as human beings. Through work, young people develop their particular skills and talents. Work helps us feel good about ourselves, not only about our hearts, but our hands; not only about what we think and feel, but what we do and can make.

There is no easy way to love and to grow in our love of God or of the people in our lives, and that is because the gospel’s three grand themes—faith, hope, and love—are not sentiments or feelings of temporary affection or inclination. All three are made of tougher stuff. St. Paul has it right: love takes work, and in that “labor of love,” we catch our stride.

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Earl Palmer is the Senior Pastor of University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Washington, and has also served in churches in the Philippines and California. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary and New College Berkeley. Earl has authored 17 books including his latest, *Trusting God*, released in Spring 2006. Married with three children, Earl and Shirley Palmer have seven grandchildren.

He also serves on the Advisory Council of *TheHighCalling.org*.

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# Rodeo Time in the Canyon!



Last night I was observing the Echo Valley Rodeo Roundup, and it led me to say this to several staff members: never in my experience in youth ministry have I ever seen anything like this. It just doesn't happen. Nowhere but LLYC, that is!

What am I talking about? World class funny and clean skits, guys and girls singing as loud as they can, especially guys singing (and not caring that other guys are seeing them sing!), cabin pride and unity displayed through cabin cheers, and kids who are willing to experience worship at its deepest level.

Yes, and then there's the rodeo and the dance. Where else can kids chase cows, tackle cows, dress and undress cows, ride cows, play tug of war, eat pies in the mud, and participate in a greased watermelon relay?

The incredible intangible here is the team spirit. They are all competing for the coveted Cody and Sullivan Awards. And wow, do they take it seriously.

Camp is going great. Overall, I would have to say these kids have displayed more enthusiasm and energy than I've ever seen before.

Tonight is Singing Hills BBQ, Rodeo, and Dance. This is by far the most popular activity during the two-week session. I wish you could see some of this stuff firsthand—kids having the best time of their lives, kids dancing with everyone, kids feeling good about who they are, kids accepting all kids. If we can help kids to live the Christ life here, then there's a great chance they will continue to live it when they get back to the other 50 weeks. How sweet it is.

Kevin Mayne, *Laity Lodge Youth Camp Executive Director*  
6/13/06



LLYC 



# Reflections

By Carol Murdock

It is a privilege and a delight to share these reflections and memories from the Laity Lodge Women's Retreat.

Blessings, Carol Murdock



- We admire each other's achievements but connect with each other's vulnerabilities.
- Sometimes we hold up the arms of others just by being there.
- At times, we have to say "no" in order to say "yes" to our own spiritual journey.
- Technology cannot solve aging or prevent death.
- Our culture is full of substitutes for our spiritual journey; we fill our lives with busyness, then cannot hear God.
- God is faithful and will give us people to walk along with us.
- Who am I truly in God's story?
- When did you recognize you were born just for a time such as this?
- The hardest part in the process is taking the first step.
- Attitude of gratitude
- I am NEVER too old to dance.
- When we feel bad about ourselves, we make better consumers.
- Body wisdom is not just about tuning up our bodies but also about being able to hear God.
- God loves you just as you are and so do I.
- Tears are often a sign of the Holy Spirit moving.
- Don Murdock's Principles for Living:
  - 80/20 Rule: for 20% of the effort, you can get 80% of the results.
  - Never waste a mistake.
- Center the clay. We start out not centered.
- God isn't afraid to get his hands dirty.
- I must be in motion to get centered.
- Openings take us beyond our own self-sufficiency.
- What do I do to encourage the inside development of my life?
- We do not have to be afraid of endings—they are the invitation to trust God as the potter.
- What was a time in my life when my pot flopped?
- My job is to come before God to be shaped in ways I may never have imagined.
- There's no sense in working harder than you have to. We aren't here to suffer; Jesus already did that.
- Every potter wants to use the clay to the edge of its capability.
- Finding God's will for my life is yielding to the touch and being open to the shaping that is going on.
- The root of discipline is being a disciple.
- A craftsman needs to know how something will turn out; an artist does not.
- Being a parent is being an artist.
- God is interested in our uniqueness, not mass production.

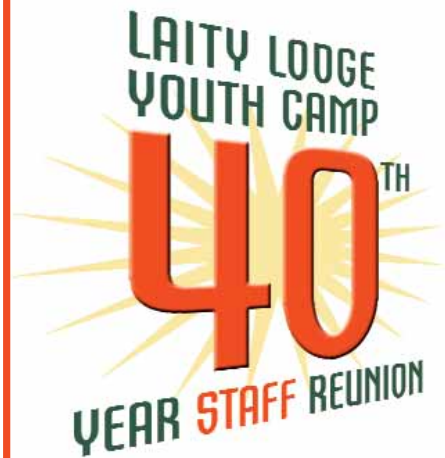
## LLYC 40th Year Staff Reunion

Calling All LLYC Staff to our 40th Year Staff Reunion!

The summer of 2006 marks our fortieth year of camping in the Frio Canyon. We are blessed! To celebrate, we are hosting a 40th Year Staff Reunion on September 30-October 1, 2006.

The reunion will kickoff in Echo Valley at 10:00 a.m. and continue until Sunday afternoon. Yes, bring your immediate family. There will be fun for all. Most housing will be dormitory style. All the details are still in the planning stages, but we promise a joyous time together.

Watch for the invitation and final details in your mailbox or email, and please help us reach all alumni by networking. We know we have only a small portion of addresses for alumni staff. Please pass this information on to your camp friends and let us know how to contact them.



**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**LLYC Staff Alumni . . .**  
**where do you plan to be**  
**September 30-October 1?**  
**In the Canyon!**  
**With your LLYC friends!**

Email us at [diane@llyc.org](mailto:diane@llyc.org) if you don't hear from us with the details. Or sign up at our Alumni website if you haven't already (<http://llyc.nucamps.com/alumni/register.asp>) so that we'll have your contact information.

# Quick Takes



## LINDA HORTNESS RETIREMENT

Linda Hortness retired after 23 years of service with Laity Lodge. Linda's contributions to the Laity Lodge Hospitality Team over these many years will surely be missed, as will her bright smile and positive outlook. Most recently, Linda headed the Housekeeping side of the Hospitality Team. She had a deep loyalty to Howard and Barbara Dan Butt and Laity Lodge and took great pride and joy in her caretaking and responsibilities. Linda personified excellence, attention to detail, determination, and teamwork.

Linda is looking forward to spending more time with her family and grandchildren. We wish you the best, Linda!



Hostesses at Laity Lodge have many duties. They greet guests, sell bookstore items, take messages, record and copy the talks, and attend to many other guest needs. Recently, hostess **Connie Taylor** even became a photographer, taking group pictures with all the guests' cameras. Like every Laity Lodge hostess, Connie has the heart of a servant leader and makes our guests feel welcome.



New Pavilion at Singing Hills



New Pavilion at Singing Hills



New slide for summer fun at Echo Valley Laity Lodge Youth Camp

# Laity Lodge Spring 2007 Retreat Preview



Unless otherwise indicated, retreats listed begin at 7:00 p.m. with dinner and conclude at noon on the last day of the retreat. A nonrefundable \$50 deposit is required but will be returned if space is not available in that particular retreat. All meals, programs, and sleeping accommodations are included. If this is not your church's retreat, please call the Laity Lodge office at 830-792-1230 to check on room availability. All rooms are double occupancy. Credit cards are accepted by mail or phone. We do not accept credit cards by email for retreats at this time as email is not secure.

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January 5-7 (Friday-Sunday)

## January Men's Retreat

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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January 12-14 (Friday-Sunday)

## St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Houston

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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January 19-21 (Friday-Sunday)

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Midland St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Fredericksburg

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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January 22-25 (Monday-Thursday)

## January Women's Retreat

Lodge: \$300/Black Bluff: \$375

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January 26-28 (Friday-Sunday)

## Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi All Saints Episcopal Church, Cameron The Damascus Community, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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February 2-4 (Friday-Sunday)

## First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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February 9-11 (Friday-Sunday)

## Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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February 16-18 (Friday-Sunday)

## Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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February 23-25 (Friday-Sunday)

## Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas Couples Retreat

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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March 2-4 (Friday-Sunday)

## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Fort Worth Christ Church, Temple St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cypress Mill

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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March 9-12 (Friday-Monday)

## Chrysostom Society

Private Retreat



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March 16-18 (Friday-Sunday)

## St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston Randy Smith Sunday School Class

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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March 19-22 (Monday-Thursday)

## Baptist General Convention Ethnic Church Leadership Retreat

Private Retreat

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March 23-25 (Friday-Sunday)

## First United Methodist Church, Houston Women's Retreat Ministry

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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March 30-April 1 (Friday-Sunday)

## Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Houston Chapelwood United Methodist Church, Houston River Oaks Baptist Church, Houston

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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April 13-15 (Friday-Sunday)

## Christ Episcopal Church, San Antonio St. John The Divine Episcopal Church, Houston

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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April 20-22 (Friday-Sunday)

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Austin

Lodge: \$200/Black Bluff: \$250

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April 29-May 2 (Sunday-Wednesday)

## Leadership Foundations of America Annual Presidents' Retreat

Private Retreat

Retreat  
Registration Form  
on Page 11

For additional information and schedule updates, visit  
[www.LaityLodge.org](http://www.LaityLodge.org).

For retreat financial assistance, contact Ann Jack at 830-792-1230 or email [annjack@LaityLodge.org](mailto:annjack@LaityLodge.org).



# Laity Lodge Featured Retreats

*You've never been anywhere quite like Laity Lodge . . .*

September 1-4 (Friday-Monday)

## LABOR DAY SINGLE ADULTS RETREAT

Charlie Peacock will be communicating principles from his book, *New Way to Be Human*. Through discussion and dialogue, a picture will emerge about how to live in a rich relationship, following Jesus, in a culture that submits to mediocrity and indifference. Charlie invites those who are eager to "stumble after Jesus with passion and authenticity." Don't miss this timely challenge!

### SPEAKER

**CHARLIE PEACOCK** – Author of *New Way to Be Human*, recording artist, composer; Nashville, TN

### MUSICIAN

**John Davis** – Vocalist, guitarist, composer; Nashville, TN

### ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES

**Anita Horton** – Pottery; Addison, TX

**Olga Samples Davis** – Creative writing and poetry, AT&T Director of Education, San Antonio Museum of Art; San Antonio, TX

*Cost per person: \$300 Lodge/\$375 Black Bluff*

October 26-29 (Thursday-Sunday)

## LEADERS' RETREAT

Dr. Wende's topic will be "Real Faith for the Real World."

Jack Willome, whose conversion began in the midst of his business career, plans to share how his faith impacted his beliefs and practices concerning work, family, money, relationships, and leadership. Rick Archer will be the lay witness for the retreat as one who practices the high calling of his daily work.

### SPEAKERS

**RICK ARCHER** – Founding principal of Overland Partners Architects; served as principal-in-charge of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin; San Antonio, TX

**STEPHEN WENDE** – Speaker, contributing editor for *Preaching Magazine*, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church; Houston, TX

**JACK WILLOME** – Consultant, former president of Ray Ellison Homes; Boerne, TX

### MUSICIANS

**Kurt Kaiser** – Pianist, recording artist, composer, producer, Dove award winner for piano solo album "Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs"; Waco, TX

**Michael Davis** – Violinist, Concertmaster, Louisville Orchestra; Louisville, KY

*Cost per person: \$375 Lodge/\$450 Black Bluff*

December 29, 2006–January 1, 2007 (Friday-Monday)

## NEW YEAR'S RETREAT

### Dissident Discipleship - A Spirituality of Self-Surrender - Love of God and Love of Neighbor

A "stubborn, persistent, radical spirituality" weaves together three strands—love for God, others, and self—in a unique way.

### SPEAKER

**DAVID AUGSBURGER** – Professor of Pastoral Counseling, author of 20 books in pastoral counseling, marriage, conflict, and human relations, Fuller Theological Seminary; Pasadena, CA

### MUSICIANS

**Stephen Clapp** – Dean, The Juilliard School, violinist; New York, NY

**Chris Weldon** – Pianist; Los Angeles, CA

*Cost per person: \$375 Lodge/\$450 Black Bluff*

## RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Registration for Laity Lodge retreat to be held \_\_\_\_\_ (give dates).

Lodge Room  Black Bluff

Please enclose deposit (\$50 per person - Spring/Fall Retreats; \$100 per person - Labor Day Retreat). Deposit applies to the total cost and is nonrefundable.

Name(s): Mr. \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
List first and last name(s)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate preference (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Check  VISA/MasterCard Please make check payable to LAITY LODGE and mail to P. O. Box 290670, Kerrville, TX 78029-0670.

VISA/MasterCard #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## LAITY LODGE PROGRAMS

- Laity Renewal Foundation
- Laity Lodge
- Laity Lodge Youth Camp
- Foundation Free Camps

## H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION

All programs are conducted on the H. E. Butt Foundation property.

The H. E. Butt Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1933 by Howard and Mary Holdsworth Butt.

[www.hebuttdfn.org](http://www.hebuttdfn.org)

### VISION

So that God may be glorified and the nations come to faith . . . our vision is to equip believers in Jesus Christ to practice servant leadership as modeled by the Holy Trinity to renew ourselves, families, institutions, and society.

Laity Lodge . . . . . 830-792-1242  
Laity Lodge Youth Camp . . . . . 830-792-1220  
Foundation Free Camps. . . . . 830-792-1210  
Development . . . . . 830-792-1206  
Communications . . . . . 830-792-1234

## PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENTS

**LAITY LODGE®**, a Christian retreat center, is dedicated to our common quest to know Christ and what that means in the ordinary secular relationships of our lives. It is a place where people are free to explore choices leading to growth in creativity, effectiveness, and servant leadership.

**LAITY LODGE YOUTH CAMP** is a coed, interdenominational Christian youth camp focusing on spontaneity, fun, and relationships to show kids the best two weeks of their lives, while sharing with them the Gospel message and love of Jesus Christ. LLYC is dedicated to providing campers with healthy fun in an emotionally safe learning environment.

**FOUNDATION FREE CAMPS** provide free camping facilities for qualified church and community-service groups. The program especially targets children and youth groups in Texas communities who would not otherwise be able to afford such an experience. The goal is to provide a place conducive to healthy Christian character development.

[www.TheHighCalling.org](http://www.TheHighCalling.org) serves to connect people in the ordinary circumstances of life with the faith that undergirds and sustains all that we do.

FOR THIS AND PREVIOUS ISSUES OF *LAITY CONNECTIONS*, VISIT  
[www.hebuttdfn.org](http://www.hebuttdfn.org)



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Summer 2006

LAITY LODGE PROGRAMS  
H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION  
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Kerrville, TX 78029-0670

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The renewal of society through the renewal of the Church  
Church renewal through renewal of the family  
Family renewal through renewed individuals