



# Laity Connections

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

## Take the Plunge into Vulnerability

By Jack Willome

**J**ack, I think that you should start a small group with Baker and Drew."

That's how a friend challenged me over fifteen years ago. The mere thought frightened me. Baker Duncan, an influential investment banker, was a member of our board of directors and Drew Cauthorn, a prominent attorney, was the personal legal counsel for my boss, the company's founder. I immediately ran for cover.

I knew something about the openness that happens in those groups, and I didn't know if I wanted these men, who were in positions of power related to my job, to know all about the real me.

"I appreciate you being honest about your fears," my friend replied. "But who's the lord of your life, your boss or Jesus Christ?"

**"I appreciate you being honest about your fears," my friend replied. "But who's the lord of your life, your boss or Jesus Christ?"**

I was haunted by his question that night. The next morning I went to Baker and Drew. "Okay," I said, "I'm willing to give this a try and commit to an hour a week for six months."

The ground rules were simple. Pursue one another, ask the "tough questions," and be an "open book."

I gave these men permission to examine every aspect of my life. They asked me questions about my parents, my brothers, my children, the executives I worked with, my boss, my wife. "How

are you doing with loving Dee?" I didn't want to talk about that, but these men consistently helped me look at areas and patterns in my life that I didn't want to examine.

In community, we can plunge deeper into our relationships and overcome our fear of vulnerability with faith. The rewards in terms of freedom and security are indescribable.

Of course, vulnerability makes no sense outside of a personal relationship with Jesus. My identity in Jesus allows me to risk being vulnerable. Then, vulnerability is nurtured and brought forth in the context of a loving community that allows people to let what's "inside" get to the "outside."

Growing up, I developed the belief that appearances and approval were of

utmost importance. Since childhood, I have had a tremendous fear of rejection and abandonment. It goes something like this: if you don't approve of me, you'll reject me. If you reject me, you'll abandon me. If you abandon me, I'll die. Even today, the child within me wants to do anything to get approval, thus avoiding rejection and abandonment.

I find myself competing in the most trivial matters, unwilling to lose even in games with children. At a recent family celebration, I nearly fell on my face as I

*Continued on page 2*

## 2007 Resource Development Council

**F**oundation Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, David Rogers, announced the appointment of Kathryn Coleman of Houston as the incoming Chairperson of the Resource Development Council (RDC), and two new council members. In making the announcement, Rogers stated, "Kathryn, a native Texan, has a long history with the H. E. Butt Foundation, having attended Laity Lodge Youth Camp as a teenager and having regularly attended retreats at Laity Lodge since the early 1990s. This is her second term



Kathryn Coleman

on the RDC. In the past two years, she has chaired the Eddie Sears Scholarship fund-raising effort and served on the Free Camp Program committee. We are excited about the opportunity to work with Kathryn as we move forward to accomplish our fund-raising goals for the Foundation."

Kathryn is the owner of an interior design firm in Houston. She is an accomplished vocalist and enjoys needlepoint, writing, and playing tennis. She is very active in St. Luke's United Methodist Church, a member of the Randy Smith Sunday School Class, and is on the Board of Directors of Can-

*Continued on page 9*

# Take the Plunge into Vulnerability . . .

Continued from page 1

scrambled for the last chair in musical chairs against my very agile and aggressive eight-year-old nephew. At times like that, I am a caricature of competitiveness.

But my competitiveness has caused lots of damage in my closest relationships, distancing me from others and causing distrust. A few years back, I was in intense conflict with a close friend over how to approach a difficult business situation. One of the men in my small group showed me that my competitiveness was the root of what was becoming destructive conflict. My friend didn't need me as a competitor. He needed my friendship. What a gift that was—ultimately I apologized to my friend, and he graciously forgave me.

It's my defense mechanism to win the approval of others by avoiding failure at all costs and *appearing* successful. Those in a loving community let me know that they see through this defense and will still love and accept me. They help me acknowledge the whole truth about myself. They allow me to risk vulnerability and examine my past, my present, my strengths, weaknesses, gifts, abilities, and sins. When I accept the truth about myself, I am beginning to take responsibility. A loving community holds me accountable to the highest calling of the life of Christ within me. They don't let me lose sight of what I'm uniquely called to do.

According to Scripture, the human heart is deceptive. Therefore if I live in isolation, I am doomed to live in denial. I will build false identities and rely on a false sense of security. I will live dependent on myself rather than on the Lord.

At times, I've paid a big price for refusing to be vulnerable. Our company was the defendant in a major lawsuit brought against us by a large number of our customers who claimed that we had deceived them. The process was painful and embarrassing. As the trial date approached, we began to have secret settle-

ment discussions with the other side. On the eve of the settlement, someone breached the confidentiality of the negotiations and leaked the details of the settlement to the press. Those details were front-page headlines in the Sunday paper. Most of our top executives learned about the settlement by reading the newspaper, rather than hearing about it from me firsthand. My lack of vul-



**I have believed that others will be attracted to me if I appear to have it all together.**

nerability created a huge morale issue at the very time when I needed their loyalty and support the most. They were understandably angry with me and felt betrayed because I hadn't taken them into my confidence.

I wish I had been more vulnerable with my team of executives. I wish I had been more open with them about my weaknesses and the company's.

According to Scripture, the Lord's power is made perfect through my weakness. Could it be that my weaknesses are of more use to the Lord than my strengths? Since childhood, I have worked to appear strong and successful. I have believed that others will be attracted to me if I appear to have it all together. In reality, other people are put off and distanced by my success. I honestly can't remember anyone ever approaching me for advice on how to emulate my success. On the other hand, when I "let down my guard" and admit weakness, I become approachable.

Over the years, I've shared more and more about my struggles with alcohol, the damage caused by alcoholism in my life, and the joy related to living in sobriety. As a result of my sharing, several friends and acquaintances have approached me privately to discuss the problem of alcohol in their lives. So many of these "closet drinkers" never showed the outward signs of addiction. When they come to me, I share my source of strength and hope with them.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Relying on anything else for strength and hope is dishonest. It's sin. But through Christ's strength, I've seen people begin new lives of recovery and sobriety.

The people in my community don't try to remake me into their image. Instead, we all try to help each other conform to the image of Christ. They reveal truths about myself that I cannot see. They help me lift the veil and discover God's will for my life. And I help them do the same. The Greeks had a word

for this lifting of the veil: "apocalypse." We more commonly translate the word as Revelation. Revelation, therefore, is the unveiling of God's will for our lives. Sometimes it comes in prayer or through Scripture or through the body of Christ.

In the end, vulnerability is not the objective. Community is not the objective. The objective is the life of Christ and the life of Christ as revealed and lived in each of us.

I can be weak because Someone else makes me strong. I can be vulnerable because I am held in the arms of a loving Savior.

I know this absolutely: if I live in isolation, I will succumb to my fears and live an inauthentic life. If I do not connect my identity to Christ, then the world will give me a hundred things to hang my identity on.

I cannot answer the question of who I am in isolation. I need community. I need vulnerability. I need Christ.

We all do.

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

## The Gift of Vulnerability

Ours is a world of broken things. We are people of brokenness. We have broken relationships, broken bodies, broken romances, broken marriages, broken families, broken dreams, broken hopes . . . but there is good news today. Christ is the God of broken things.

Yet, in all of our brokenness, we find it difficult—if not impossible—to allow ourselves to be vulnerable to others who are going through their brokenness too. In our desire to be invulnerable and strong, we live our lives in hidden, protected shadows. This life of secrecy and hiddenness is like “walking in the dark.” If we were to allow ourselves to be vulnerable, to become transparent to others, we would be walking in the light.

So why do we resist vulnerability?

To walk in the light is often painful, and most of us tend to flee pain. Fear of pain—perhaps with pride mixed into the formula—causes us to turn a deaf ear to the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit to share our story with another sufferer. We’re too embarrassed to be real. But to be human is to be vulnerable. To deny your own vulnerability is to deny your humanity.

the Son of God, Jesus shares his humanity with us through his vulnerability all the way through his life—but, ultimately, at the cross. That crucifixion moment makes Jesus identifiable to us.

So how do we live a vulnerable, transparent life?

We identify ourselves with Him in his crucifixion. We concentrate on dying to ourselves.

I admit it: Many times I don’t want to be vulnerable. I’m too proud. Vulnerability is no fun—it whittles me down to size; it strikes at my leadership image and at my religious image. Religion can always be vulnerability’s enemy. In it, we unconsciously set out to convince others that we’re their religious equals or superiors. Then religion has become the deadliest form of competition. The God who came in Jesus is not amused. He called the self-righteous Pharisees of his day “whitewashed tombs.” It’s a vivid picture: Inside, a rotting corpse: Outside, a palid layer of deceit.

The only way to build up others is to be open about the fact that we need to be built up ourselves. We’re called to be open with the

puffed up, self-important pride and lets us relax in our all-too-human skin.

Why should you choose to be vulnerable?

It relaxes your friends, family, and co-workers into a shared humanity. When a person, especially one in leadership, is not open or vulnerable, he takes on an aura of omnipotence. The leader who operates by fear and intimidation is doing so out of his own insecurity and fear of insignificance. We are all transparent before God, but we need that quality with each other. We cannot be servant leaders without being transparent.

Of course, there are all kinds of perils involved with transparency. There will always be people who want to take advantage of our vulnerability for their own good. Perhaps it’s the community gossip who gets a gratification of “being in the know.” Perhaps it’s the fellow employee who longs for our position and is looking for anything to discredit us behind our back. Perhaps it’s a jealous neighbor looking for dents in our armor in order to make himself look stronger and more successful. We need God’s wisdom to help us discern the right time and the wrong time to share our weaknesses.

You can’t separate good vulnerability or transparency from our need for wisdom. Transparency can be brutal and unloving. It can even be bragging—competitively—about our sins. Such openness is self-serving. We’ve all met people who prattle on endlessly about their problems, demonstrating a “poor me” syndrome, making life into a “pity party.”

Yet to model vulnerability we must learn to openly—and wisely—share the truth



PHOTO BY PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY

**The Bible is a book of people who experience weakness and failure.**

**All its heroes are vulnerable.**

The Bible is a book of people who experience weakness and failure. All its heroes are vulnerable. We connect with Abraham, Moses, and David because their foibles and failings reveal their humanity to us. Consider Solomon in all his power and wisdom. Yet even the mighty Solomon was all too human when he compromised his faith in the one true Living God by following his wives’ wishes to follow after other gods. We can identify with these great leaders of their day. Their vulnerability gives us comfort that there is hope for us in our weaknesses. Of course, the ultimate example is Jesus himself. As

people whose lives we touch. We live vulnerable lives and tell those who cross our path about our struggles and our weaknesses and how we’re dealing with them. Such openness creates an atmosphere in which others are not afraid to tell us *their* problems, *their* weaknesses, and *their* struggles.

Vulnerability is, relationally, the essence of being humble. It forsakes a life of masks and hiding for a life lived openly in the light. It climbs down off the pedestals of our pomposity, letting us join the rest of our kind, the human race. Christ calls us to the almighty power of weakness. It forsakes our

*Continued on page 4*

# The Gift of Vulnerability

Continued from page 3

about our lives. To learn that narrow path is crucially important; we are to be wise and flexible. We trust the Holy Spirit's guidance in whether it is appropriate to be vulnerable in a given situation . . . and to what degree. We pray and think ahead of time about how we're going to discuss our major issues, and when. Then, in the moment, we check with an instant of prayer. If we get a nudge from the Spirit, we go ahead and share.

Jesus lived a vulnerable life . . . but not in a way that was legalistic or compulsive. He sometimes walked away, kept

things from the apostles, spoke in parables, revealed himself progressively. Sometimes it's inappropriate to be vulnerable.

But the basis of willingly taking the risks of making business relationships personal comes from Jesus himself. Near the end of his life, Jesus turns to his disciples and says, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). Jesus poured his life into his disciples, entrusting his authority and his continuing ministry to these friends. He lived a life of wise openness with them: friendship's vulnerability.

Given the disparity between the Lord and his disciples, Jesus' style of leadership represents the ultimate in risk-taking.

I well remember the first day I openly and publicly discussed my problems with depression. I had been battered down by all kinds of unrealistic anxieties and fears and had sought professional help. For years, I

couldn't tell anybody. In Baptist or evangelical circles, you didn't flaunt your relationship with a psychiatrist; you would hide it. For many years, there were members of my own family who didn't know. But out



of professional help, I was able to uncover hidden feelings about myself and my situation, about my relationships with my dad, my mother, my brother, my sister, our family, others, and myself. I was able to get in touch with issues that had been buried, unconscious, for many years. Christ began to touch me more and more deeply with new forgiveness, love, strength, and healing.

But I discovered that the healing process was only step one. Our first Laity Lodge director, Keith Miller, kept prodding me to tell my story, because he felt my experience would be a strong encouragement to oth-

**To share our failures, to be transparent and vulnerable to others, is to acknowledge His sovereignty and redemptive power.**

ers. The day came when I finally decided to share the story.

I will never forget one man's reaction. He was a very brilliant college and seminary president, sitting in front of me. He'd never heard anyone in my position talk with the kind of honesty and transparency I exhibited that day. He'd never heard a business

leader reveal his own failures, problems, and weaknesses. I later learned that my candor played a role in changing this man's life. After returning home, in the period ahead, he resigned his presidency. He started to work with another spiritual renewal organization which was devoted to faith and work. And he continued to work occasionally with us.

Over time, as I repeated my story and my life became more transparent, I continued to see the amazing, positive impact it had on people. Our ministries took on a depth that I had never seen before. The Laity Lodge Retreat Center grew as a ministry by leaps and bounds during that time, and many people's lives were deeply changed. Today, the Laity Lodge ministries and their impact are tributes to what God can do with brokenness and vulnerability.

My friends, nothing you do is trivial. Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, everything you do is important. So we pray with St. Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."

Take all the gifts of your life, everything you are and have, your will, and even your mistakes and brokenness—and give them all to Christ. To share our failures, to be transparent and vulnerable to others, is to acknowledge his sovereignty and redemptive power. It is to risk being broken yet again. But ah! the payoff! To roll up our sleeves and become co-laborers in the creative process with Him—that is the best gift of all!

# Reflections

by Carol Murdock



- What time is it and what in the world are we doing?
- All the preliminaries have been taken care of and God's way is accessible to everyone.
- Review your plans for living.
- Let me slow down enough that God can stir my memory.
- How can I not praise You?
- During the hard times in our lives, we need someone with a track record.
- Birth should be seen as the time we step into God's ongoing story.
- We are here to be storytellers and to practice story living.
- A Christian should never be bored—there is so much to do.
- Student followers of Jesus are taught that God's ways through the life of Jesus are sufficient.
- Embodiment shows the student that Jesus' way is not out of reach.
- Embodiment has a magnetism—the DNA of Jesus.
- In Christian community, conviction and character are reinforced and considered the norms.
- In community, people don't have one teacher but many.
- Even a broken clock is right twice a day.
- You can be lonely, but you're never alone.
- Two norms in the way to be human are creational and relational.
- We honor God's creativity by the way we treat our husbands, wives, and friends.
- There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- We can get back in the game.
- There are people in the body of Christ whose sole job is to *imagine* with you.
- We are to cooperate with God to restore rightness, do justice, and show mercy.
- Where I stand and with whom I stand change my view of the world.
- Take a personal inventory of all God has given you to be used in his work, then determine what good can be done with your gifts.
- It is less important for the watching world to hear us say we are followers of Jesus than to see us doing God's work.
- What is my current next step into the ongoing story?
- We are standing at the gate, ready to follow the Lamb of God.
- People would rather choose the known, though it may be destructive, than move toward the unknown.
- We are making church history this moment; there is NO rehearsal.
- Time is eternal for a Christian, and how our lives unfold is important.
- We must preach the gospel to ourselves.
- Repentance is changing your agenda to Christ's.
- Jesus' arms are open to receive us.

## The Seven "Ups"

Presented by Olga Samples Davis at  
a Laity Lodge New Year's Retreat

### 1. Wake Up!

Psalms 118:24

*This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

### 2. Dress Up!

1 Samuel 16:7

*But the LORD said to Samuel,  
"Do not consider his appearance or his  
height, for I have rejected him. The LORD  
does not look at the things man looks at.  
Man looks at the outward appearance,  
but the LORD looks at the heart."*

### 3. Shut Up!

Proverbs 13:3

*He who guards his lips guards his life,  
but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.*

### 4. Stand Up!

Galatians 6:9-10

*Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest  
if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have  
opportunity, let us do good to all people,  
especially to those who belong  
to the family of believers.*

### 5. Look Up!

Philippians 4:13

*I can do everything through him  
who gives me strength.*

### 6. Reach Up!

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make your paths straight.*

### 7. Lift Up!

Philippians 4:6

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in  
everything, by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Happy moments, praise God!  
Difficult moments, seek God!  
Quiet moments, worship God!  
Painful moments, trust God!  
Every moment, thank God, thank God!

THE  
MARY HOLDSWORTH BUTT  
SOCIETY

*It is with gratitude we recognize  
the newest members to the Society:*

ROLLINS AND BITSY  
RUBSAMEN

The Mary Holdsworth Butt Society welcomes anyone who has included Laity Renewal Foundation in his or her will. If you have questions about "planned giving" or would like to be identified as a society member, call Perri Rosheger at 830-792-1204.

## The wrap of love

Eagles wings I see  
The Father is holding me

I wake to feel the wrap of love  
As wings are folded from above

I am cradled in his wings of love  
Like a baby swaddled I sleep  
I pray for comfort  
and assurance  
And love He gives as I weep

Unable to speak  
with all this care  
I return to sleep with no despair

Without words to explain  
what He has done  
I breathe in the comfort  
of the Son

Quiet House, October 2006  
Diana Seebock

# Hang On to the Ship's Broken Pieces

By Eddie Sears

**Cast all your worries upon Him, because He cares for you.**

**1 Peter 5:7**

When God noticeably breaks into a person's life, it rarely happens in church. He comes most often in human experience: death of a loved one, serious illness, financial difficulty, divorce . . . job loss. And though some people find God in that experience, others feel abandoned into a dark abyss.

The difference, I believe, is the presence of believers—persons of faith who walk with someone in a personal struggle.

Richard J. Niebuhr compares God's breaking into our life to a shipwreck. "Life's mysteries toss us into cold, chaotic waters," Niebuhr says, "and we are over our heads, drowning. Yet in the chaos we sense ourselves being washed ashore." Notice that Niebuhr does not speak of swimming ashore . . . but being washed ashore. Like Paul in the storm, our faith is fragile and vulnerable. Paul survived by holding on to the ship's broken pieces—and, sometimes, all anyone can do is hang on. But to walk with a hurting person is to become broken pieces for another to cling to. Frederick Buechner wrote, "We have it in us to work miracles of love and healing and to have them worked on us. We have it in us to bless with Him and forgive with Him and heal with Him and grieve with Him and rejoice with Him." As Paul affirms in Colossians, ". . . it is Christ in you, the hope for glory."

Over and again, in our own lives and others', we see that God's nature is to pull goodness from brokenness, joy from pain, and blessing from sorrow. More often than not, He does it through people like you and

me. "Cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you," in essence means that Jesus wants to serve you; empower you; heal you; bless you. And, we must do likewise. Therein, I believe, lies the secret to perseverance—the answer that helps us move on:

Be Christ to each other.

Henri Nouwen  
put it this way:

"When we honestly ask ourselves which people in our lives mean the most to

us, we often find that it is those who—

instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures—have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness—that is the friend who cares."



EDDIE SEARS retired after serving as a director at Laity Lodge for more than 18 years. He is a past member of the Resource Development Council for the H. E. Butt Foundation. Eddie continues to be active in his community and church in Kerrville, Texas. He is married with two children and two grandchildren.

© Article used with permission of  
*TheHighCalling.org* and Eddie Sears.

# Who Can Live Like This?

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

I don't like being vulnerable, and I detest suffering. Yet Scripture calls us to suffer and to be vulnerable.

Vulnerability is difficult to explain. It is more than just being open or transparent. It is more than just persecution for righteousness' sake. Like the gospels, vulnerability is revolutionary. It's counter-cultural.

And it's scary. If I show my weakness, people can take advantage and hurt me with it. Yet throughout Scripture, those who humble themselves—and admit their weakness—are exalted by God. God uses these people in powerful ways despite their weaknesses.

Peter and Paul were two such people. We could refer to Peter as "fair-weather friend," but Jesus said, "Upon this Rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). We might think of Paul as a "right-wing fanatic," but Jesus said, "This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel" (Acts 9:15).

Vulnerability leaves us open to attack. It's a willingness to be open about what we believe. As Jesus told us in the Beatitudes:

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt. 5:10-12)

Neither Peter nor Paul was acceptable to the mainstream culture of his time. They were outcasts spreading their message to a few thousand people in their lifetimes. Their

faithfulness, however, reverberates today among millions of followers of Christ. They were not always right, but they were faithful. And their faithfulness made their vulnerability acceptable.



**"Certainly, Jesus thought we could learn something from the vulnerability of children."**

Little children are also pictures of vulnerability. They are so innocent. They are so small. Some people think of them as easily subdued. Often they are "seen but not heard."

Certainly, Jesus thought we could learn something from the vulnerability of children. "He called a little child and had him stand

among them. And he said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven' " (Matt. 18:2-4).

So Jesus calls us to a life of humility. Being vulnerable is a part of humble living. For being open to attack implies an acceptance of the consequences of persecution. Perhaps you are like me. Too often, I am defensive about things in my life. I forget that persecution is part of vulnerability, and when I'm feeling the need to defend myself, perhaps I should accept a perceived slight as a form of persecution and accept it. I remember that Matthew 5:10 says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness." For me, this includes being criticized severely for doing the right thing. And it places the responsibility for right living squarely on my shoulders. If I truly want to live rightly, defensiveness is not an option.

I should not be afraid of vulnerability, because I can trust my Father to comfort me and protect me and teach me contentment in all circumstances. Trusting God's power rather than my own is humility. Trusting God's logos rather than my own logic is just common sense.

When I am weak and perhaps also when I can admit my weakness, Christ strengthens me.

The world tells us that being vulnerable is not the way to live. The world values security, insulation from others, building walls to hide our true selves, and keeping others at a distance. The world says hide your weakness, appear strong and you will be strong, and never let them see you sweat.

Jesus tells us otherwise.

# Quick Takes

## WELCOME KYLE!

**KYLE WOGAN** joined the Foundation on June 12 as our Information Systems Technician. Kyle came to us with extensive experience in computers and telephones. His knowledge and experience are already proving to be of great value as he has undertaken the design and implementation of an enterprise-wide telephone system and data network. In addition to unifying the Kerrville offices and the facilities in the Canyon, we will also see significant monthly savings by converging our voice and data networks.



Kyle recently moved to Kerrville from Houston in search of a better quality of life. He has two sons, Riley (14) and Austin (13).



LAITY LODGE

The entrance through the water—a baptism!  
The sight of the river—a Jordan;  
The craggy bank of the river—a golgotha;  
The expanse of the Great Hall—a cathedral;  
The beautiful lodging—a vacation;  
The fellowship of the people—a family reunion.

*Written by Adrian Hall of Wimberley, Texas  
during an Episcopal Church Retreat  
in 1991 at Laity Lodge*

## LIVING ON THE EDGE . . .

PaulAnn Baptist Church Young Single Adults, San Angelo, Texas, experienced the living God at Linnet's Wings in October 2006. "We are truly grateful for the opportunity to use your facilities as we were seeking to live on the edge for Christ. Our theme this year was learning how to spiritually 'Live on the Edge.' The theme was very appropriate considering that, everywhere we went, we were literally on the edge of something—whether it be the face of the cliffs, the river bank, or the meeting hall. It was a great reminder that we are constantly living on the edge in our personal lives, on the edge of what the world wants and expects from us, and on the edge of what God demands from us. I believe God allowed Linnet's Wings to be available for our use to accomplish His purposes for our group. . . . It was a truly remarkable place, perfect for a truly remarkable experience."



Fall colors in the Canyon



Snow at Echo Valley in mid-January

# 2007 Resource Development Council

Continued from page 1

Care, a nonprofit cancer support organization. Kathryn and her husband, Hank, have four grown children. She succeeds Rollins Rubsamen who has served on the RDC since its inception. Kathryn said, "The more I learn about the life-changing experiences that occur at the H. E. Butt Foundation Camps in the Frio River Canyon, the more excited I am about the opportunity to ensure that the Foundation's programs continue for many years to come. It would be hard to find a more selfless group of people, all dedicated to helping people find deeper meaning in their lives in order to become the full beings God intended us to be."

The new council members are John Castle and Jeri Muhich. Castle is returning to the RDC after a five-year absence. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Dallas and have one adult daughter. John retired from EDS in 1999 as Executive Vice President. He currently serves on several boards including chair of the Dallas Foundation. The Castles are members of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, where he has served on the Vestry and now serves on the search com-

mittee for a new rector. He also chairs a capital campaign for the Episcopal Diocese for planting new churches and building a youth camp.

Jeri Muhich of Austin is new to the RDC but not to the Foundation. She, her husband, John, and their children attended the first Laity Lodge Family Camp in 1994 and have been strong advocates of the program ever since. Both their sons grew up attending Laity Lodge Youth Camp and served on staff there. Jeri earned an undergraduate and graduate degree from SMU. After working in the high-tech industry for over 20 years, she made the decision to be a full-time mom. Now that their children are grown, Jeri assists John in the human resource aspects of their storage business. Both Jeri and John attend St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, where Jeri is the website content coordinator and John is the church treasurer.

Howard E. Butt, Jr., Foundation president, commented, "We are so very blessed to have this type of high quality, dedicated Christian men and women agree to take leadership roles in the RDC. Kathryn has been a strong influence on the Council, and I am thrilled that she has agreed to take this vital role in raising funds for the long-term viability of the Foundation. I also want to thank Rollins Rubsamen for his outstanding leadership over these past two years. His creative and financial and business expertise have set the theme and direction for our future efforts. We owe him a great debt of gratitude.

"I welcome my good friend John Castle back to the RDC and could not be happier to anticipate working with him on the RDC again. Finally, what a joy it is to welcome one of our long-time supporters to the Council for the first time. I know Jeri will be a blessing to us and to our future.

"I am so thankful for all of the returning RDC members. It has become obvious over the years that we could not be as successful in all our programs if we did not have exceptional people like these who give generously of their time, talents, and financial resources to support the Foundation."

# Impact

## Reflections

by Richard Wilson  
on Men's Retreat, January 2007

"Hear this, you kings! Listen,  
you rulers!  
I will sing to the LORD, I will sing;  
I will make music to the LORD,  
the God of Israel."

Judges 5:3

The comradery was encouraging and the witnesses inspiring . . . but a lingering memory is the joy that came from the music provided by Buddy Greene and Jeff Taylor.

They sang while playing guitars, pianos, accordions, harmonicas, and mandolins. It was a harmony of song blended with different instruments. One of them would take the lead, the other would listen for a few beats before joining in. During every piece, each musician was featured in a solo that highlighted his unique gift to the melody. It was amazing to see them immerse themselves in the music and transition seamlessly as if of one mind, but without speaking a single word.

We all felt their love for the Lord and wanted to be a part of it. Most of us are not blessed with the musical talent of the music makers at Laity Lodge, but we can honor God by using the gifts he has blessed us with. Like the music makers, some play lead roles, while others listen for a few beats before joining in. Then together we become a harmony of God's message blended with different instruments, but to the same music in the same key—as God has blessed us to use. When we honor God with the talents he has given us, we become God's music makers. Our music spreads the message of His love through the world. Others will feel our love for the Lord and will want to be a part of it.

"You are the light of the world."

### 2007 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**Clair Amonett**, Houston  
**John Castle**, Dallas  
**Kathryn Coleman**, Houston  
**Ann Griggs**, Abilene  
**Gardner Kendrick**, San Antonio  
**Meg Lowry**, Austin  
**Sally McCollum**, Houston  
**Jack McGuire**, San Antonio  
**Jeri Muhich**, Austin  
**Judy Parker**, Jackson, MS  
**Kimberly Renner**, Austin  
**Marcus Rogers**, San Antonio  
**Lucy Ross**, Austin  
**Rollins Rubsamen**, San Antonio  
**Mary Pat Stumberg**, San Antonio  
**Tyler Sutliff**, Austin  
**Jo Betsy Szebehely**, Austin  
**Mike Toomey**, Austin  
**Ray Welch**, Corpus Christi  
**Jack Willome**, Boerne

# Laity Lodge Summer 2007 Retreats

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.

**May 25-28** (Friday-Monday)

## Memorial Day Singles' Retreat

*"The Healing Touch of Jesus," and "Practicing God's Presence in Relationships"*

### SPEAKERS

**RON HILL** - Senior Pastor, The Fellowship of San Antonio; San Antonio, TX

**JACKIE HALSTEAD** - Chair, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, Abilene Christian University; Abilene, TX

### MUSICIANS

**Mary Lou Russell** - Pianist and organist, Alamo Heights United Methodist Church; San Antonio, TX

**Richard Diaz de Leon** - Guitarist, guitar maker; San Antonio, TX

### ARTIST/ACTIVITY

**Phaedra Wendler** - Found object 3-D collage sculpture; Austin, TX  
*Lodge: \$300/Black Bluff: \$375*

**June 7-10** (Thursday-Sunday)

## Summer Women's Retreat

### SPEAKERS

**LEIGH MCLEROY** - Writer and creative consultant; Houston, TX

**ROBYN DRISKELL** - Associate Professor of Sociology, Baylor University; Waco, TX

### MUSICIAN

**Cynthia Clawson** - Grammy and Dove award-winning recording artist, Copastor with her husband, Ragan Courtney, of The Sanctuary; Austin, TX

### ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES

**Margaret Sartor** - Instructor of Writing and Photography, Duke University, author of *Miss American Pie: A Diary*, creative writing and photography; Raleigh, NC

**Ginger Geyer** - Clay; Austin, TX

*Lodge: \$390/Black Bluff: \$465*

**June 21-24** (Thursday-Sunday)

## "Transformation - His Work, Our Journey"

### SPEAKERS

**LAURA ROBINSON HARBERT** - Clinical Psychologist; Pacific Grove, CA

**MICHAEL BRUNER** - Professor of English and Religion, Azusa Pacific University; Azusa, CA

### MUSICIANS

**Ashley Cleveland** - Singer, recording artist; Nashville, TN

**Kenny Greenberg** - Instrumentalist, lyricist, producer; Nashville, TN

### ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES

**John Sager** - Collage; Austin, TX

**Meg Lowry** - "Drawing Faces"; Austin, TX

**Henry Parish and Mike Lundy** - Tennis; Kerrville, TX

*Lodge: \$390/Black Bluff: \$465*

**June 25-June 30** (Monday-Saturday)

## Creativity Week

*"Creative Disciplines" and "Tell this mountain to move into the sea, and it will do it if you have faith."*

### SPEAKERS

**DAVID PETERSON** - Senior Pastor, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church; Houston, TX

**DAVID REDDING** - Senior Pastor Emeritus of Liberty Presbyterian Church; Delaware, OH

### MUSICIAN

**Charles Webb** - Dean Emeritus, Indiana University School of Music, pianist; Bloomington, IN

### ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES

**Jim Morris** - Jewelry; Kerrville, TX

**Rob Grimes** - Pottery; San Antonio, TX

**Jeness Gilles** - Beading necklaces; Midland, TX

**Johnny Jones** - Treenware; San Antonio, TX

**Bill Nichols** - "Portrait Painting Made Easy"; San Antonio, TX

**Henry Parish and Mike Lundy** - Tennis; Kerrville, TX

*Lodge: \$650/Black Bluff: \$775*

**July 5-8** (Thursday-Sunday)

## Couples' Retreat - "Reprogramming Your Relationship"

### SPEAKERS

**TERRY HARGRAVE** - Professor of Counselor Education, West Texas A&M University; Amarillo, TX

**SHARON HARGRAVE** - Therapist, Amarillo Family Institute; Amarillo, TX

### MUSICIANS

**Ashley Cleveland** - Singer, recording artist; Nashville, TN

**Kenny Greenberg** - Instrumentalist, lyricist, producer; Nashville, TN

### ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES

**Don Schol and Pam Burnley-Schol** - Colorful crosses and walking canes; Argyle, TX

*Lodge: \$390/Black Bluff: \$465*

**July 12-15** (Thursday-Sunday)

## "Raising Youth in a MySpace World"

### SPEAKERS

**CHAPMAN CLARK** - Associate Professor of Youth, Family and Culture, Fuller Theological Seminary; Pasadena, CA

**DEE CLARK** - Marriage and Family Therapist; Pasadena, CA

### MUSICIAN

**David Tolley** - Pianist, composer; Columbus, OH

### ARTIST/ACTIVITY

**Elizabeth Chapin** - Painting; Austin, TX

*Lodge: \$390/Black Bluff: \$465*

Retreat  
Registration Form  
on Page 11

For more retreat 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).



**July 18-22** (Wednesday-Sunday)

**Exploring the Scriptures with Dale Bruner and Thomas Corts**

*“Studies in the Second Half of the Book of Acts”*

**SPEAKERS**

**DALE BRUNER** - Professor Emeritus of Religion, Whitworth College, Spokane. Now residing in Pasadena, CA

**THOMAS E. CORTS** - Interim Chancellor of the Alabama College System, recently retired as President of Samford University; Birmingham, AL

**MUSICIAN**

**David Tolley** - Pianist, composer; Columbus, OH

**ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES**

**Brenda Kingery** - “Drawing and Painting 101”; San Antonio, TX

**Marcus Rogers** - Birdcarving; San Antonio, TX

**Henry Parish and Mike Lundy** - Tennis; Kerrville, TX

*Lodge: \$520/Black Bluff: \$620*

**July 25-29** (Wednesday-Sunday)

**Exploring the Scriptures with J. I. Packer and Walter Wright**

*“More Life-Changing Meetings with Jesus According to John’s Gospel” and “Don’t Step on the Rope”*

**SPEAKERS**

**J. I. PACKER** - Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Regent College, author of *Knowing God*; Vancouver, B.C.

**WALTER WRIGHT** - Executive Director, De Pree Leadership Center; Pasadena, CA

**MUSICIANS**

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

**Sean Jackson** - Director of Music, St. John’s Episcopal Church, organist and pianist; Stamford, CT

**ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES**

**Larry Matthews** - Pottery; Temple, TX

**Henry Parish and Mike Lundy** - Tennis; Kerrville, TX

*Lodge: \$520/Black Bluff: \$620*

**August 2-5** (Thursday-Sunday)

**Exploring the Scriptures with Jim and Sara Singleton**

*“Weaving It Together for Good – Joseph’s Story and Ours,” “Living from a Superabundant Heart,” and “Be a Blessing”*

**SPEAKERS**

**JIM SINGLETON** - Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church; Colorado Springs, CO

**SARA SINGLETON** - Ministry Associate for Spiritual Formation and Marriage Ministry, First Presbyterian Church; Colorado Springs, CO

**BRENDA A. SMITH** - Author of *Divine Confinement: Facing Seasons of Limitations*; Dallas, TX

**August 2-5** (continued)

**MUSICIANS**

**Kurt Kaiser** - Dove award-winning composer, arranger, record producer, keyboard artist, and choral conductor; Waco, TX

**Michael Davis** - Violinist, Fanny and Charles Horner Concertmaster chair, Louisville Orchestra; Louisville, KY

**ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES**

**Anita Horton** - Raku ceramic pottery; Addison, TX

**Jimmie Hudson** - 2D open studio; Dallas, TX

**Henry Parish and Mike Lundy** - Tennis; Kerrville, TX

*Lodge: \$390/Black Bluff: \$465*

**August 15-18** (Wednesday-Saturday)

**Baptist Laity Institute, BGCT**

**SPEAKER**

**WILLIAM O’BRIEN** - Professor of Missions, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, AL, until retirement. Now residing in Dallas, TX

**MUSICIAN**

**Kyle Matthews** - songwriter and minister, winner of Dove, Stellar, and ASCAP awards; Nashville, TN

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

**August 31-September 3** (Friday-Monday)

**Labor Day Singles’ Retreat**

*“Four Fruits of the Spirit”*

**SPEAKERS**

**DAVID M. REDDING, JR.** - Associate Pastor, Central College Presbyterian Church; Westerville, OH

**KRISTIN HUFFMAN** - Associate Pastor, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church; Houston, TX

**MUSICIAN**

**D. E. Adams** - Guitarist, recording artist; Louisville, KY

**ARTISTS/ACTIVITIES**

**Penney Clarke** - Jeweled cross shadow boxes; Rockport, TX

**Marcus Goodyear** - Lights, Mirrors, and Creative Writing; Kerrville, TX

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



**RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM**

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

Lodge Room  Black Bluff

Please enclose deposit (\$50 per person). 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.

### 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.

### MISSION

The renewal of society through the renewal of the Church

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

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.

**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.hebuttdn.org](http://www.hebuttdn.org)



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 116  
Kerrville, TX

Winter 2006/2007

LAITY LODGE PROGRAMS  
H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION  
Post Office Box 290670  
Kerrville, TX 78029-0670

Return Service Requested