

THE LONGING FOR HOME

by Eddie Sears, Associate Director Emeritus of Laity Lodge

The word "home" has so many layers of meaning, both secular and sacred. Notice how the theme of "home" has filtered its way into our movies, songs, television, Broadway shows, and even into our sports. Two of the most popular movies of all time have as their recurring theme the longing for home. In *Gone With the Wind*, Scarlett O'Hara's longing for home strengthens and enables her to suffer the scorn and abuse of Yankee soldiers and carpetbaggers alike as she tries to save Tara, her beloved plantation home. In *The Wizard of Oz*, the little girl Dorothy is carried away by a cyclone to the Land of Oz, a place she knows is not her real home even though the Emerald City is beautiful. Home for her was her uncle's farm on the Kansas prairie with all its difficulties. The story of the journey down the yellow brick road with her three outlandish companions to find the great Wizard of Oz, who she hopes holds the secret of how to get back to Kansas, is one of this country's classic fairy tales.

And who can resist feeling a little nostalgic and melancholy during the holidays when we hear, "I'll be Home for Christmas"? If you are old enough, you might even remember the song, "Gonna Take a Sentimental Journey Home." Television also touched us with the idyllic *Little House on the Prairie*.

Even the sports world uses the metaphor of home. As I am writing this, the

World Series is underway. Think about this: In the game of baseball, the goal is to get to home plate safely and you are rewarded with a score. First, however, you must pass three bases (obstacles) before you can reach home plate. Just as in real life, in order to safely get to our heavenly home, we, too, must face our obstacles.



Home: a place of residence or refuge.
Home: a geographical area in which a person grew up or feels they belong.
Home: may relate to a mental or emotional state of refuge or comfort.

I was born and grew up in a single parent home in Brooklyn, New York, during the 1930s and '40s. Please don't confuse Brooklyn with the *Little House on the Prairie*. I remember during the war hearing sirens and seeing searchlights at night as we listened to the radio and practiced our escape plan in the event of a real attack. Then a few years later, the celebration in the streets when the war ended is still etched in my memory. Later, my mother's illness caused us to leave Brooklyn and head for a warmer climate. We settled near Jacksonville, Florida, and my mother went to work at the Naval Air Station doing civil service work.

We stayed there for three years when the unit she was working with transferred to the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. That is how my brother and I got to Texas. By God's grace, everything good that has happened in my life has happened because of leaving that apartment building home in Brooklyn and its inner city of delinquency and crime. I often say, "Big doors swing on little hinges." Even though my earliest memory of home was not perfect, that experience shaped my thinking for what

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM – REACHING OUT TO TEXAS SCHOOLS

by Erik Silvius (Coordinator) and Nich Hearn (Intern),
 Outdoor Education Team
 email: esilvius@fdnfreecamps.org
 or nhearn@hebuttcamp.org



Austin ISD's Perez Elementary students paddling the Frio

As we set our clocks back and feel the first "real" cool breezes in the Canyon, it seems the perfect time to introduce the Foundations for Laity Renewal Outdoor Education Program. The Outdoor Ed Program officially launched January of 2011, and we have had the opportunity to work with school groups ranging from elementary schools to universities. Although quite diverse, all of these groups seem to leave the Canyon with similar grins on their faces.

We believe this smile to be the result of finding new connections. Not only are these new connections with teachers and peers, but most importantly these new connections are with the incredible creation all around us. Richard Louv describes the power of this connection in his book, *The Nature Principle—The End of Nature-Deficit Disorder*. Louv writes, "Tapping into the restorative powers of the natural world can boost mental acuity and creativity; promote health and well-

THE LONGING FOR HOME

Continued from page 1

I wanted as I moved out into the world to create my dream and hoped-for vision of home.

My story is not your story. But in some strange way, although the times and places and circumstances are different, you may recognize that in many ways it is also yours. A line from the Broadway show *The Lion King* reminds us, "We are all connected in the great circle of life."

Of course, the ultimate meaning of home lies in the words of Scripture. The Bible's landscape is covered with stories of pilgrim people roaming the earth longing for a permanent dwelling place. The Scriptures open with God fashioning an earthly dwelling place for us: Eden, a perfect home. But soon we rebel, and the story shifts to unending homelessness and displacement. Later, a second home of great joy begins to take shape. It is the Promised Land, which would be given to the people of Israel, a land flowing with milk and honey. It is not the Garden of Eden regained, but it is home for the people of Israel, the chosen ones with whom God has bonded in a covenant of love. Our path through the Bible winds on, pausing briefly at Bethlehem and the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, then Nazareth and ultimately Calvary where our Lord's victory over death prepares us for our own transition to our eternal home. Our Lord said, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head," but he showed us how important home was to him by leaving us with the great homecoming parable of the Prodigal Son.

Finally, sacred Scripture gives us all hope to remember what our Lord said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also know where I am." Just like the Prodigal Son we, too, will experience the joy of our *Welcome Home!*

OUTDOOR EDUCATION . . .

Continued from page 1



Seguin ISD's Weinert Elementary Expert Anglers

ness; build smarter and more sustainable businesses, communities, and economies, and ultimately strengthen human bonds." It seems that this simple act of helping to connect people with the outdoors can have a profound effect. The Children and Nature Network has found that kids who spend time outside are healthier mentally and physically, do better in school, have higher self-esteem, are good problem solvers, are more creative, are more cooperative with others, feel connected to nature, and are tomorrow's conservation leaders. People need nature, and the Outdoor Ed Program has been blessed to be able to help provide this opportunity.

The Canyon's effect on our guests is obvious to those of us on-site, but sometimes it is nice to hear from the Outdoor Ed participants themselves. "By engaging our students through leadership activities and building within them a knowledge of the world around us, you inspired our students to achieve more than they ever thought possible," said a principal from Seguin, Texas. "No one could believe that I could shoot an arrow to a bull's eye until I actually did," reported a 5th grader. "I loved the water study because we got to use nets to catch minnows and got really wet," said a 6th grader. "My favorite

part of the trip was hiking because of the stuff we saw at the top of the canyon," remarked a 5th grader. "Guess what! My mom says that I can take archery lessons now," said a 5th grader. "Amazing experience for ALL! Many of our kids said that they had never done anything like this before," reported a principal from San Angelo, Texas.

Outdoor Education falls under the Foundation Free Camp Program and we believe really exemplifies the original Butt family mission. The hope to provide a free camping experience for "maybe 100 boys and girls," as written in Mrs. Butt's diary, is more than reality. In 2011, Outdoor Ed will have served over 1,000 first-time guests to the Canyon representing 13 different school



Weinert Elementary students taking in the view from Circle Bluff

groups. As was our hope, these schools found such value in their "camping trip" that they are scheduling to come back in 2012. We are continuing to reach out to Texas schools, especially those serving students who would not otherwise be able to have such an experience. We are thankful for our new school groups and their efforts put forth in implementing an Outdoor Ed experience for their students in the Canyon, and we look forward to a great 2012!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

by Hal Haralson

I first met the late Bill Cody in 1955. I was a ministerial student at Hardin-Simmons University. Bill was the student representative for the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He became my closest friend.

In 1965, I was asked to speak at Laity Lodge by Keith Miller, the director. Laity Lodge and Laity Lodge Youth Camp have made a significant impact on three generations of Haralsons over the last forty years.

When Keith Miller left his position as director of Laity Lodge, Bill Cody was named director. Our friendship continued.

Bill invited my wife, Judy, and me to a retreat at Camp Allen (Episcopal) on contemplative prayer, led by Father Keith Hosey, a Catholic priest from Hartford City, Indiana. We were intrigued. Both of us were lifelong Baptists. I had never set foot on an Episcopal retreat center, never met a Catholic priest, and had no idea what contemplative prayer was. But I trusted Bill Cody, so I figured this would not hurt me much.

Hosey was a tall, good-looking guy who dressed in "civilian" clothes. He didn't try to make a Catholic out of me. There were no signs around saying, "Join the Episcopal church," so I began to relax. I learned from Father Hosey that contemplative prayer was about listening for God to speak to me by silence. Since Baptists aren't too big on silence, this was something new for me.

Our first assignment was to be silent for one hour, focusing our minds on God, and listening to him speak. Never tried it? It is an amazing experience. By the end of the week, we were spending 12 hours in silence and contemplative prayer.

I began to realize the difference in my kind of prayer and contemplative prayer as I listened to Keith Hosey that week. When I prayed, I was talking to God—telling God what I wanted, who to bless, what my church needed, who the sick were—as if God didn't know. I realized that contemplative prayer was listening to God—hearing God speak to me through the silence by focusing my mind on God and what he was saying to me. What a difference!



The Quiet House at Laity Lodge was built for one person or a couple to reflect and practice contemplative prayer.

Hosey introduced me to the writings of Thomas Merton. I had never heard of Thomas Merton, an authority on contemplative prayer.

Toward the end of the week, I wrote:

I sought God as a child in
"Now I lay me down to sleep"
simple trust.
I found him there . . .
But sought him more.

I sought God as a youth
"Frantic searching
Fearful surrender"
I found him there . . .
But sought him more.

I sought God in worship
Broken bread. Spoken word.
I found him there . . .
But sought him more.

I listened to God
He spoke in the silence
"You're home my child.
My home. You've found the door."

"Contemplative prayer." Listen!

"I LEARNED FROM FATHER HOSEY THAT CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER WAS ABOUT LISTENING FOR GOD TO SPEAK TO ME BY SILENCE."

Hal Haralson is a frequent contributor to *Christian Ethics Today* and has been a practicing attorney for more than 30 years. Throughout the years, Hal championed breaking down the stigma attached to mental illness. The National Mental Health Association awarded him the Clifford Bears Award, and he has also received the Dole Foundation Award for his work with the mentally ill.

See page 11. Fr. Hosey will lead a Laity Lodge Retreat in April 2012.

JUST FOR GRINS



To Live Is Christ . . . and Camp!

by John Kerr, Director of Foundation Free Camps
jkerr@fdnfreecamps.org

Please allow me to digress from my usual theme of camp humor for this issue, but this is a story worth telling. To start with, I will list some national highlights from the year 1912:

- New Mexico was admitted as the 47th state.
- RMS Titanic sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Democrat Woodrow Wilson beat Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft in the 28th presidential election.
- Roland Johnson was born.

"Who is Roland Johnson, and why is he so special?" you may ask. Well, I guess Roland Johnson's birth isn't such a big deal on the national scene, but he's pretty special to the Free Camp Program. Roland is a camper I met a few years ago at a senior retreat sponsored by Lakewood Church of Christ from Baytown, Texas. This is truly one of my favorite groups, and I look forward to seeing this gang of senior citizens every fall when they hold their annual retreat at Linnet's Wings. You may recall that I've written about this group a couple of times over the years. They are a fun-loving bunch with a lot of great stories to tell. For many, the retreat has become a bittersweet event, because they have lost spouses, friends, and loved ones over the past 20 years. In fact, they recently lost their group leader, Clint Prothro, who is one of the most servant-hearted and godly men that I've ever met.



There are some old timers in this bunch for sure, but when it comes to age, Roland has eclipsed them all. If you've done the math, then you've figured it out. You see, Mr. Johnson is 99 years old!

Let that sink in for a minute. I did a little research on great moments in American history that this man experienced. He spent his young adult years struggling through the Great Depression, and when Babe Ruth, "The Bambino," called his shot during the 1932 World Series, Roland listened to it on the family radio. He was middle-aged when the Butt family purchased the camp property in 1954, and he was 57 when Neil Armstrong said, "that's one small step for man... one giant leap for mankind!" When I think about it, I have to shake my head in amazement. This gentleman just spent four nights sleeping in a cabin on a 4-inch vinyl-covered foam mattress, and he can't wait to come back next year!

Here's a little more background on Roland:

- He lost his bride on Valentine's Day. They were married for 74 years!
- He served in the U.S. Cavalry and completed assignments from the Army in WW II, Japan, and Korea.
- After retiring from a 40-year career in the Army, he went on to become a preacher, but he did that for just 16 years!

Mr. Johnson plays a mean harmonica and knows about a thousand songs and hymns. He did an hour-long concert at this retreat. I don't think I could play a harmonica for five minutes before keeling over from asphyxiation!

WOW! What an inspiration—what a witness—what a life of service! I asked Roland what it was about this retreat that kept him coming back year after year, and without hesitation, he answered, "It's peaceful here." In Philippians 1:21, Paul states, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." For Roland Johnson, to live is Christ...and that includes camp! I've got to start thinking how we can honor a 100-year-old camper, as Roland has promised that he will be back. From the intense look in those blue eyes . . . I have no doubt he will.

LAITY LODGE YOUTH CAMP INTRODUCES NEW INTERACTIVE PROGRAM

How many times have you tried to tell friends, relatives, and neighbors about the experience your child had while attending Laity Lodge Youth Camp (LLYC)? Let's face it, you and your child's testimonies are the strongest marketing program anyone can have. Well, now we have an "App for that" (just kidding).

Seriously, though, a new program called Moms at Laity Lodge Youth Camp (M@LL) has been launched to help those of you who want to tell the LLYC story and the impact it has had on your child. This program will provide you with all the materials and information you will need. For more information and to sign up, go to LLYC.org and hover on the words "Get Involved" and then click on M@LL.



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AT FOUNDATIONS FOR LAITY RENEWAL

Foundations for Laity Renewal is pleased to announce the 2012 Resource Development Council (RDC) membership, including two new members profiled below. The RDC exists to provide leadership and support for the organizational fundraising priorities. This year's focus is on increasing the endowments related to program scholarships and stipends and the Laity Lodge Speakers' Fund. The group will also focus on program support for the Free Camp Outdoor Education Program and The High Calling. We are grateful for the giftedness and commitment of these individuals.

Stacy Rodgers is from Fredericksburg. She grew up in Dallas and graduated from Highland Park High School. She attended the University of North Texas with a major in interior design. She moved with her family to Fredericksburg in 1993. Stacy and her husband, Ray, are parents of three adult children. Their oldest daughter, Emily, is on staff with L'Abri in Greatham, England. Their son, Ben, is newly married to Emily May, and they reside in Fredericksburg. Their youngest daughter, Molly, is a former camper and summer staff member at LLYC and is now studying abroad at the English L'Abri. Stacy and Ray helped found Heritage School and Ambleside School, both in Fredericksburg. They are partners in Rockbox Theater of Fredericksburg and attend St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.



Nancye Saunders Drukker was born and raised in Dallas and, following moves to Atlanta, New York City, and Albuquerque, has been back in Texas for 14 years, residing in Boerne. She graduated from Baylor University and U.T. Southwestern Medical School—School of Allied Health with degrees in Clinical Nutrition and practiced as a Nutrition Support Dietitian at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, where she met her husband, Steve, who is a hand surgeon. Nancye and Steve have two children: Meredith, a freshman at The Kings College in New York City, and Saunders, a junior at Geneva School of Boerne. Meredith and Saunders have attended LLYC for years. Meredith has served on Work Crew and as a counselor at Echo Valley. Steve and Nancye attended their first retreat at Laity Lodge in 2009 and have returned as often as possible. Nancye was a Teaching Leader in Bible Study Fellowship for six years in San Antonio and presently serves as the Area Advisor for BSF classes in Austin, San Antonio, New Braunfels, Boerne, and Kerrville. Nancye and Steve are members of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio where they serve in Student Ministry. She enjoys God's Word, music, art, hiking, and nature.



RDC MEMBERS

- Lucy Ross - Chair
- Kathryn King Coleman
- Nancye Drukker
- Eric Goldreyer
- Kathryn Green
- Roy Johnston
- Meg Lowry
- Jack McGuire
- Jeri Muhich
- Phyllis Nichols
- Kimberly Renner
- Stacy Rodgers
- Marcus Rogers
- Tyler Sutliff
- Jo Betsy Lewallen Szebehely
- Mike Toomey

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES MAY STILL BE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU

The American Council on Gift Annuities has announced the recommended Gift Annuity rates for 2012. Given the significant changes in the economic environment, the board approved a new schedule of suggested maximum gift annuity effective January 1. At ages older than 60, when the majority of gift annuities are issued, one-life rates will decline by 0.5% to 0.8%.

I would be happy to provide a personal illustration for you. Feel free to contact me at 830-792-1204, or prosheger@laityrenewal.org to learn about this easy, tax-smart gift. You can also visit www.LaityRenewal.org/cga to read more about this and other gift-planning vehicles.



Perri

Perri Rosheger, CFRE
Director of Development

Gift Annuity Rates RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON GIFT ANNUITIES

ONE LIFE		TWO LIVES	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
50	3.7%	50/55	3.3%
55	4.0%	55/60	3.7%
60	4.4%	60/65	4.0%
65	4.7%	65/70	4.4%
70	5.1%	70/75	4.8%
75	5.8%	75/80	5.3%
80	6.8%	80/85	6.0%
85	7.8%	85/90	7.3%
90+	9.0%	90/95+	8.8%

The information in this publication is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult your legal and tax advisors.

MY FRIEND HENRY

by Jack Willome
Longtime friend and past RDC member

Henry Parish

November 13, 1926 - September 30, 2011



"Hey, John, look over there!" Henry pointed excitedly to the nearly hidden golf ball at the edge of a water trap on the golf course where he and his wife, Dorothy, lived. Our youngest son, John, was twelve at the time, and we were taking tennis lessons from Henry. Hunting golf balls with Henry early in the morning was a side benefit and, like everything he did in life, Henry was excited about every golf ball we found. Later that morning, John said, "Dad, Coach Parish's voice reminds me of love." Over the next 29 years, I'd find that nearly everyone whose path crossed with Henry's would agree with John's insight.

God started a new chapter in my life when he introduced me to Henry at a Laity Lodge retreat in 1982. Henry invited me to his "chapel" at the tennis court, and an abiding friendship began immediately. A few years later, Dee and I took our first vacation with Dorothy and Henry, beginning a tradition that includ-

Kerrville. His feeling was that there was no way he could ever take a picture that looked as good as the photographer who made the postcard. When you think about it, that makes pretty good sense.

Henry lived Colossians 1:27—" . . . the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." We'd

when I had an argument with my boss and impetuously quit my job. Feeling self-pity and looking for sympathy, I talked to Henry about it. It only took him one question to cut me to the core: "Jack, did you have God's permission to do that?" He was gentle, firm, natural, and enthusiastic.



Left: Henry and Dorothy Parish; Right: Jack and Dee Willome

*Heaven has just gained
the best tennis partner I've
ever known!*

ed over a dozen journeys. Dorothy and I were the travel organizers, while Dee and Henry made sure that we had lots of fun. Everywhere we went, Henry had to stop and collect postcards. When we returned, he would put together beautiful scrapbooks and framed collages of the postcards and brochures he picked up along the way. I wish you could have seen the collection he kept at his home in



be jogging together, and he'd break into praise, joyfully thanking the Lord for the creation that surrounded us. I have never known anyone who exhibited Christ's presence more than Henry. Nothing excited Henry more than his life in Jesus, and he loved to share it with others. Henry was a discipler, sometimes with words and always with his life. He knew that Jesus was living through him and that all he had to do was be obedient and get out of His way. Without ever telling me, Henry disciplined me using Jesus' method of life-on-life impartation. I wasn't a project for Henry or the object of a ten-step process. I remember a time

I should also mention his tremendous athletic ability. When he was growing up, he excelled at football, baseball, boxing, and tennis. He won the Golden Gloves as a welter weight and served two years on the Army boxing team. He won numerous awards and trophies in tennis, including five gold medals at the U.S. Senior Olympics. Henry loved the social aspect of tennis and, through it, was introduced to an amazing array of people. Wherever we traveled, Henry would find a tennis court and make new friends.

He knew that becoming a champion required more than natural ability, and he determined to live a life of self-discipline. He exercised daily, carefully watched his diet, and nurtured the magnificent body that God had given him. In addition, Henry conditioned his mind, developing the ability to concentrate on the present moment which enabled him to play championship tennis one point at a time. He was also a spiritual champion, exer-

The good news is that Henry is now in the presence of our loving Lord, and we all know Henry was totally in love with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I never heard a negative word from Henry. Each retreat he attended was always the best.

cising his spiritual “muscle” with daily prayer and meditation on scripture.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in the Hill Country owes its origins to Henry. He started the first Hill Country huddle in 1973, when he and Dorothy moved to Kerrville. Henry embraced FCA’s strategy of using older athletes to influence the younger ones for a relationship with Jesus. He knew that the greatest way to impact the character of a campus was through athletes and their coaches as positive role models. Henry organized the FCA “Weekend of Champions” each spring for junior high and high school athletes, attracting prominent speakers such as Tom Landry, Bob Lilly, and Oscar Roan.

Of course, nearly all Christians owe their decision to follow Christ to someone who invested in them. In Henry’s case, it was Howard Butt, Jr., who led him to invite Jesus into his life in the early ‘60s



Dorothy and Henry Parish

when Henry faced a difficult crisis. Dorothy was Howard’s assistant at the time (Dorothy served Howard in this role for 50 years); and, a few years after his conversion, Henry and Dorothy married. All of a sudden, Henry found himself adopted into the Butt family.

Henry loved the H. E. Butt Foundation’s ministry at Laity Lodge, and he embodied its theology of God’s people living out their ordinary, everyday lives as ministry. Countless men and women, young and old, experienced Henry’s ministry on Laity Lodge’s tennis courts—his “chapel.”



You know that throughout your life, God puts people in your path who not only make a difference but really make a difference. I call these people heroes, and Henry was one of those people who is a hero and a “Beloved of God” as defined by Henri Nouwen.

I consider myself privileged to be counted among that group.

Henry was crazy about Dorothy, and we could all tell. He called her Dot, Baby, and Mrs. Parish. Probably the greatest tribute to Henry’s relationship with Dorothy comes from his niece, Everly. She was 10 when Henry came into her life, and she observed the way Henry treated Dorothy. She now says that seeing the way he treated Dorothy made her decide that she wanted to find a man one day who would treat her with the same love and respect.

I miss my friend Henry and think about him every day. People often mistook his sweet, godly spirit for simplicity. He was not simple. The truth is, if still waters run deep, then he is probably the deepest man I have ever known, and I am grateful, beyond any description, for the gift of his life in mine.

In closing, I share with you a poem that Henry wrote in the front of his Bible:

Who Am I?

I am the place where God
shines through
For He and I are one, not two.
I need not fear, nor fret nor plan
He wants me just where
and as I am.
If I’ll just be relaxed and free
He’ll carry out his plan
through me.

Source: Unknown

QUICK TAKES

STAFF NEWS

Camp Operations Team Exemplifies The High Calling of Our Daily Work



First row (left to right): Troy Wright, Doug Adair, Glenn Echols, Fern Navarro, Rudy Gonzalez, Erik Silvius
Second row (left to right): C. D. Neal, Alan Blaha, Hugh Schneemann, Juan Ortiz, Noe Salazar, Cassi Salazar
Not shown: Willis Adair

The Camp Operations Team paused for a group picture before spreading throughout the Canyon to tackle their duties in maintaining the grounds and facilities in the camps. This team, led by Glenn Echols, Director of Camp Operations, is responsible for maintaining roads, grounds, buildings, plumbing, air conditioning . . . everything that contributes to the enjoyment of everyone who attends a retreat at Echo Valley, Singing Hills, Wind Song, Linnet's Wings, or Laity Lodge. Erik Silvius, bottom row far right, is the Outdoor Education Coordinator and works with school groups who introduce their students to outdoor education with a retreat in the Canyon.

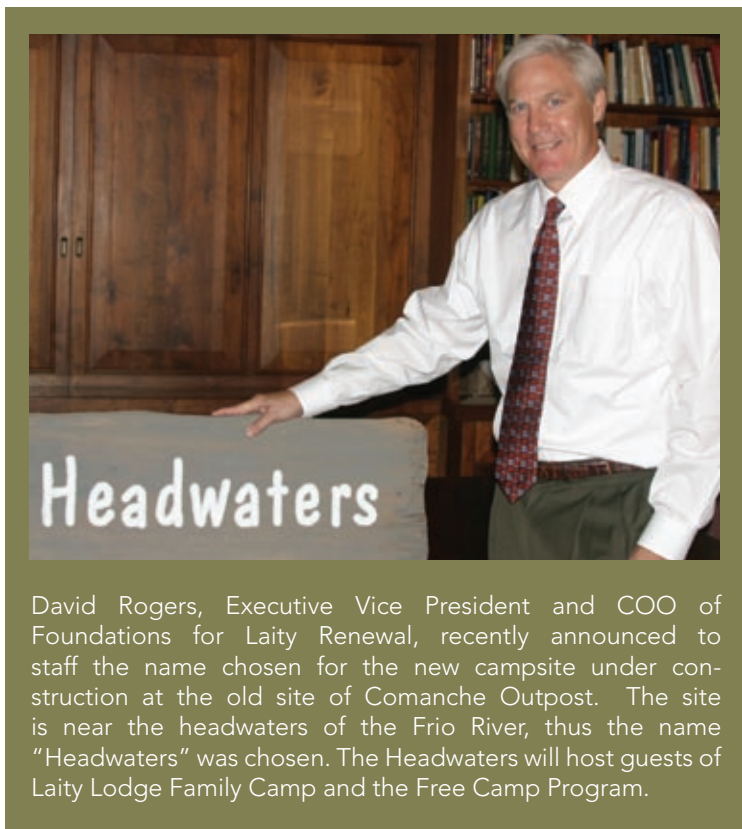
We are pleased that **Tara LaMontia** accepted the position of Administrative Assistant for the Communications Department, replacing Vicki Berry who retires at the end of December. Tara began work on December 7.

Tara was most recently employed by the City of Kerrville as the Assistant to the City Manager and the City Attorney. She was responsible for many forms of communication within the city offices, including a quarterly newsletter, some community information on the city's website, press releases, etc. Prior to working for the City of Kerrville, Tara worked as a legal assistant at Patillo, Richards & Harpold, and in Houston for two law firms.



Tara and her husband, Nick, have one son, Nicholas, and have lived in Kerrville for four years. Her husband is Lead Dispatcher with the Kerr County Sheriff's Office.

Please join us in welcoming Tara to the Foundations for Laity Renewal family and saying goodbye to Vicki who will be enjoying time at home with her husband, Phil.



David Rogers, Executive Vice President and COO of Foundations for Laity Renewal, recently announced to staff the name chosen for the new campsite under construction at the old site of Comanche Outpost. The site is near the headwaters of the Frio River, thus the name "Headwaters" was chosen. The Headwaters will host guests of Laity Lodge Family Camp and the Free Camp Program.

BOOK REVIEW

By Howard Hovde
Executive Director Emeritus
of Laity Lodge

Moments of Grace by Christopher deVinck

The author has found grace in many people, many things, and on many occasions. In the reading, you will be encouraged, be given hope, experience gratitude, and have both your mind and heart stretched.

Walking with Chris deVinck through *Moments of Grace* is an awakening journey. He has learned how to see, how to be alert to sounds, how to persevere—even in darkness and disappointment.

One of his early teachers was his brother, Oliver. "Sometimes Oliver was my Zen guru. He is so quiet. Oliver had no intellect . . . he offered no advice . . . so it was in that silence where I had to discover my own answers to my woes . . . Oliver did not have the ability to learn, talk, think, communicate" (page 99).

On the day Oliver died in his 32nd year, Chris was holding his own "four-week-old son who was kicking his legs, wiggling his arms, looking into my eyes and I just cried . . . I pressed my face into the small boy's body and cried and cried, and I promised the boy I would love him for the rest of his life" (page 100).

Frequently throughout the book, the author made lists of things he likes. "I like to admire the wild flowers . . . I have come to my own reverence of the sea . . . I like the flash of lightening . . . I like the sound of tree frogs on a hot, August night."

Deep friendships can make life expand and joy multiply. Such a relationship developed between the author and Mr. Fred Rogers. Fred said to Chris, "The greatest gift someone can give another is his complete honest self." Chris gives himself to his readers this way.

He concludes, "I hope this little book helped to stimulate the fields of your soul at midnight as you continue to make the conscious decision to breathe."

LAITY LODGE FEATURED SUMMER RETREATS



June 7-10

(Thurs-Sun)

Contemplative Retreat with Lauren Winner

SPEAKER

Lauren Winner – Author, Professor at Duke Divinity School; Durham, NC

Housing: Standard \$405, Premium \$480

July 19-22

(Thurs-Sun)

Retreat with Dale Bruner and Laura Robinson Harbert

SPEAKERS

Dale Bruner – Author, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Whitworth College; Spokane, WA

Laura Robinson Harbert – Clinical psychologist, ordained Presbyterian minister; Pacific Grove, CA

Housing: Standard \$405, Premium \$480

July 26-29

(Thurs-Sun)

Laity Lodge Scholars' Retreat with David Lyle Jeffrey and Darin Davis

SPEAKERS

David Lyle Jeffrey – Professor, Baylor University; Waco, TX

Darin Davis – Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Institute for Faith and Learning, Baylor University; Waco, TX

Housing: Standard \$405, Premium \$480

August 2-5

(Thurs-Sun)

Retreat on Entrepreneurism with Tod Bolsinger and Jeff Van Duzer

SPEAKERS

Tod Bolsinger – Senior Pastor, Head of Staff, San Clemente Presbyterian Church, author; San Clemente, CA

Jeff Van Duzer – Dean, School of Business and Economics, Seattle Pacific University, author of *Why Business Matters to God (And What Still Needs to Be Fixed)*; Seattle, WA

Housing: Standard \$405, Premium \$480

LAITY LODGE WINTER-SPRING RETREATS 2012

Laity Lodge is eagerly anticipating our approaching retreats. Each retreat will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and conclude with brunch by noon on the final day. Registration fees are per person and inclusive of all meals, lodging, and program costs. Please visit our website, www.LaityLodge.org, to register and to view a full list of retreat programming.

January 26-29 (Thurs-Sun) Women's Retreat

SPEAKERS

Leigh McLeroy – Author and speaker; Houston, TX
Carla Waterman – Affiliate Professor of Spiritual Formation, Northern Seminary; Oviedo, FL
Housing: Standard \$405, Premium \$480



February 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Retreat for First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

SPEAKER

Dave Peterson – Senior Pastor, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church; Houston, TX

MUSICIAN

Jeff Johnson – Recording artist; Camano Island, WA
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280

February 6-9 (Mon-Thurs) Pastors' Retreat

SPEAKER

Rodney Reeves – Dean, Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry, Professor of Biblical Studies; Southwest Baptist University; Bolivar, MO

MUSICIAN

Jeff Johnson – Recording artist; Camano Island, WA
Housing: Standard \$250, Premium \$300

February 10-12 (Fri-Sun) Couples' Retreat

SPEAKERS

Mark Roberts – Senior Advisor and Theologian-in-Residence for Foundations for Laity Renewal; Boerne, TX
Linda Roberts – Marriage and family therapist, spiritual director; Boerne, TX

MUSICIANS

Chris & Jan Harris – Singer-Songwriters, *The Adventures of Rodeo and Juliet*; Nashville, TN
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280

February 24-26 (Fri-Sun) Retreat for Women of Windcrest United Methodist Church, San Antonio

SPEAKER

Debbie Sewell – Musician, speaker, retreat leader; Fort Worth, TX
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280



March 1-4 (Thurs-Sun) Retreat for Pastors and Ministers to Artists

CONTRIBUTORS

David Taylor – Writer, speaker; Durham, NC
Sandra Organ Solis – Dancer; Houston, TX
Charlie Peacock – Musician, producer, author; Nashville, TN
Ginger Geyer – Ceramic artist; Austin, TX

MUSICIANS

Elizabeth Larson – Violinist; New York, NY
Steuart Pincombe – Cellist; Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Housing: Standard \$330, Premium \$405



© 2011 Bob Brashear



© 2011 Bob Brashear



March 23-25 (Fri-Sun)

Laity Lodge Retreat with Suzanne Stabile

In Partnership with Women of First United Methodist Church, Houston

SPEAKER

Suzanne Stabile – Co-Founder, Life in Trinity Ministry; Dallas, TX

MUSICIAN

Letha Crouch – Pianist, organist; San Antonio, TX
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280



March 30 – April 1 (Fri-Sun)

LLYC Alumni Retreat

SPEAKER

Scotty Smith – Founding Pastor of Christ Community Church; Franklin, TN

MUSICIANS

Andy Gullahorn – Songwriter, guitarist; Nashville, TN
Jill Phillips – Singer-songwriter; Nashville, TN
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280

April 13-15 (Fri-Sun)

Retreat with Earl Palmer

SPEAKER

Earl Palmer – Pastor Emeritus, University Presbyterian Church; Seattle, WA

MUSICIAN

Letha Crouch – Pianist, organist; San Antonio, TX
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280

To register, for additional information, and for schedule updates, visit www.LaityLodge.org.



April 20-22 (Fri-Sun)

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

SPEAKER

Garry Sattler – Pastoral counselor, research psychoanalyst, Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary; Flossmoor, IL

MUSICIAN

Barbara Bamberg – Program associate and pianist, St. Luke's United Methodist Church; Houston, TX
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280

April 23-26 (Mon-Thurs)

Worship Leaders' Retreat

In Partnership with Worship Team Training

SPEAKERS

Mark Roberts – Senior Advisor and Theologian-in-Residence, Foundations for Laity Renewal; Boerne, TX
Branon Dempsey – Founder of Worship Team Training; Cypress, TX

MUSICIAN

Rita Springer – Singer and recording artist; Charlotte, NC
Housing: Standard \$300, Premium \$360

April 27-29 (Fri-Sun)

Retreat for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Austin

SPEAKER

Fr. Keith Hosey – Former Co-Director of John XXIII Center; Hartford City, IN
Housing: Standard \$230, Premium \$280

May 9-12 (Wed-Sat)

Retreat on Vocation

Private Retreat

May 14-18 (Mon-Fri)

Retreat for Baylor University Faculty

Private Retreat

P. O. BOX 290670
KERRVILLE, TX 78029-0670

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, TX
Permit #244

FOUNDATIONS FOR
LAITY RENEWAL
Transforming Daily Life

PROGRAMS

- LAITY LODGE®
- LAITY LODGE YOUTH CAMP
- LAITY LODGE FAMILY CAMP
- FOUNDATION FREE CAMPS
- LAITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE™
- THE HIGH CALLING OF OUR DAILY WORK®

FOUNDATIONS FOR LAITY RENEWAL
830-792-1200

LAITY LODGE®
830-792-1230

LAITY LODGE YOUTH CAMP
830-792-1220

LAITY LODGE FAMILY CAMP
830-792-7571

FOUNDATION FREE CAMPS
830-792-1210

DEVELOPMENT
830-792-1206

COMMUNICATIONS
830-792-1234

LAITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE™
830-792-7573

MAILING LIST UPDATE OR ADDRESS CHANGE:
Call 830-792-1206 or visit
www.laityrenewal.org/ChangeAddress.php

FOR THIS AND PREVIOUS ISSUES OF *LAITY CONNECTIONS*, VISIT
www.LaityRenewal.org/Connections.php

MISSION

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

CORE PURPOSE

To serve God by creating opportunities for people to encounter
God for the transformation of daily life, work, and our world.

H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION

The H. E. Butt Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1933 by Howard and Mary Holdsworth Butt. Since 1954, the Foundation has supported camping and retreat programs on its property in the Texas Hill Country. Today, it is the founding organization of the Foundations for Laity Renewal, which supports programs that promote the transformation and renewal of individuals, families, and institutions.

