

# REFRESHING TIMES

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## Mission Statement

*To provide a place  
of refuge, peace,  
restoration and hope,  
dedicated to help people  
establish intimacy  
with Jesus Christ  
and those they love.*

The Wilderness Fellowship  
Ministries

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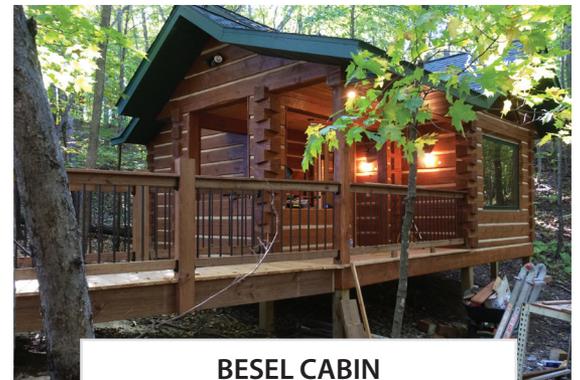
Web site

www.wildernessfellowship.com

## BESEL CABIN NOW OPEN!

We are so excited to announce that the Besel Prayer Cabin is up and running and ready for service. It has been a long time a-comin’ but we have persevered, and slowly but surely the steady work is bringing about a gorgeous cabin that will glorify God and serve as a meeting place with God. Check out the pictures!

(More pictures on page 2)



BESEL CABIN

“I will take my children into the wilderness and there I will speak tenderly to them. I will restore their fruitfulness and turn their valley of trouble into a door of hope.”

*Hosea 2:14-15a*



**BESEL CABIN RAMP**

## PIECES AND PARTS

Yes; logs, nails, caulk and glass; “Pieces and Parts”... it’s all coming together. The B.E.S.E.L cabin is progressing nicely.

The drippings of the raindrops create a soft cushion in the darkness of the fall woods and another leaf flutters to the ground.

“Pieces and Parts”...it’s all coming together. It’s already fall!

Two owls hoot out to each other and compliment the night glow of the newest of prayer cabins, number 5. This cabin, built in honor of Mildred and Reinhart Besel and to the praise of Jesus Christ, is a refuge being built for you where you can abide in Jesus and let His Word abide in you. This cabin is a servant place where the “Pieces and Parts” of our lives can come together to be renewed and restored.

As I lean out over the fresh cedar boards on the cabin ramp, looking for the rising moon, I agree with God. I need Him just as a branch that needs to abide and rest in the vine. I need to know my Father God. And if He seems far from me...I need to snuggle up closer...and here in The Wilderness, I find it easy to be still, get close and let God put my “Pieces and Parts” back in order.

The B.E.S.E.L. cabin will be ready for guests in late fall. Special thanks and blessings to the many friends and family members that have helped interlock the “Pieces and Parts” of this special gift.

*Be Ever Secure in the Everlasting Lord*

And in His Love,

**- Rich Besel**

son of Mildred and Reinhart

## PREPARE SERIES

The Prepare Series is off to a successful start. We have had 5 presentations as of this newsletter covering canning and homemade soaps; hearing God’s voice; dreams and visions; Shemitah, blood moons, and financial preparedness; and a day of worship workshops along with an evening of worship for the community. Wonderful times of teaching and training. We are looking forward

to what the Lord has for us as the Prepare Series continues into 2016. Be looking at the Bulletin Board on our Website for further information.

## WEBSITE MAKEOVER

We have received about 7 replies to our plea for help on the website makeover. It is my desire to make a decision regarding this soon and get started on it. We will keep you posted as developments move forward. Please pray for God’s hand in all of this, that above all, the message of what God has called TWFM to do and be comes across clear and that the Lord will be magnified and glorified. Thanks.

Ground breaking for the Prayer Cabin Village Shower House took place the week of Sept 28th. We are moving full steam ahead on this project with plans to get the plumbing and septic in and pour the slab and framed in before snow flies. The Lord miraculously provided a special gift of \$5000 just 3 days before the newsletter went out and a second special gift of \$5000 just 3 days after it was mailed. Wow! Additional other gifts have come in since, so we see this as God’s green light telling us to get going on it. Please pray for the weather to hold till it is all enclosed and outside work done. Thank you and Praise God!



Roadwork begun to accommodate new shower house and access to Besel Prayer Cabin.

## GRADER IS FINISHED!

We are praising God for the perseverance that the Lord has given Larry Brooke and Kerry Anderson in rebuilding the engine for the Motor Grader. It has been a trial as a number of things just didn’t seem to go right. But they were faithful servants and hung in there till they got it done. We know this piece of equipment will serve us for many years to come. Now we just need to fix our big tractor-powered leaf blower so we can blow leaves and then grade roads. Thank you so, so much, men, for your skill, service and patience! Bless you!



**GRADER ENGINE**

A big THANK YOU for all who have served with us over the course of this year, 2015. Youth groups, individuals, and families have blessed us by working on firewood, chipping trails, trimming roads, weeding gardens, painting, cleaning and more. The Wilderness would not be what it is to-



MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP

day if not for the army of volunteers who have given of themselves to help where needed. Thank you for being God's hands and feet to bless The Wilderness and the guests who come.

## THE GIFT OF PRAYER

By Randy Klawitter

The power of prayer is something that cannot be fully comprehended but can be felt and experienced on a daily basis. The last 2 years have been a time of rebuilding and exciting growth for myself and the staff team here at TWFM. It has been tough in some aspects, but in so many other ways the gift of His peace which passes all understanding has been clearly felt. As our ministry team has grown strong, I have come to look forward to our times of fellowship, sharing, praising and praying together. We have grown in ministry not only to each other but also in a greater way to our guests as we have had the privilege to earnestly lift their prayer requests up to the Lord with faith and expectation. It has been so exciting to watch the power of God at work in our midst. His peace rules our hearts and minds. I have grown as I have watched the team pray for one another with tears as we cry out to the Lord on their behalf and also watched the spontaneous prayers for guests before they can get out the door. Hey, we may only have you for a few minutes but there's a chance you will be prayed for before you escape to your cabin or head home. Prayer changes things! It is the power of God at work in us and through us as we walk in obedience to His promptings. As guests leave written prayer requests we faithfully lift them to our heavenly Father on their behalf. Prayer is work but a work worth the effort and filled with joy. May all the Glory go to Jesus and may you experience this joyous gift from both directions; giv-

ing and receiving. It is our commitment to pray for you so please let us share in the Joy of the Lord that comes as we see his power at work.

If you would like to get in on the Joy of Prayer please lift up The Wilderness, the staff, and the guests who come. Lift to the Lord the needs of finances, provision, protection, wisdom and growth in Him. As we end 2015 and begin 2016 would you commit to pray for the work here? We would so, So, SO, appreciate it. And we thank you in advance, for God is good and full of Glory, Honor and Blessing.

## ROOF AND SHELTER NEED!

Since we're on the subject of Prayer, I have one for you. As you may know, we use a lot of firewood for heating buildings and for cooking maple syrup. To have a roof over our wood-processing area would be "huge" and storage of baskets on a cement slab would keep them from freezing to the ground in winter, another "huge"! Would you pray for the funds to build a half open, half semi-closed building for the purpose of providing storage for firewood that is drying, and space to keep things dry? Right now a huge amount of space is taken up by nearly 100 baskets of wood inside the maintenance center cold storage area. This could easily be stored outside but under roof. If the Lord provides for this it could be built next summer and put to immediate use. Keeping the wood "rain free" would be a massive help to drying it. Thanks.



- Randy

Randy Klawitter is married to Renee, and they have four children, two grandchildren, a son-in-law, daughter-in-law and a dog. Randy is the Executive Director of TWFM and is the son of TWF Founders Dick and Lois Klawitter. Randy has been involved in virtually every TWF project since its beginning and wears multiple hats as builder, greeter, mechanic, work crew leader, maple syrup maker, equipment operator, etc, and fills in wherever needed. If you have questions or comments, email Randy at [randy@wildernessfellowship.com](mailto:randy@wildernessfellowship.com).

## From Cheryl's Desk:

In I Thessalonians 2:8, Paul is writing to the church in Thessalonica: "We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too." Paul (and Silas and Timothy who were with him) shared the good news of Jesus Christ with those they encountered on their journeys, but they also shared their lives. I imagine the sharing of their lives included stories of God's faithfulness through times of struggle, hardship, or persecution. (We know from the book of Acts that Paul experienced plenty of that!) In verse 14, we learn that the church in Thessalonica suffered persecution, too. Do you suppose they were encouraged in the midst of their suffering by what Paul had shared with them?

In Revelation 12:11, John records what he heard from a loud voice from heaven: "And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony." In this passage "they" is referring to the people of God and "him" is referring to the accuser, or Satan. The people of God have defeated the enemy with two things: the blood of the Lamb and their testimonies.

I see a parallel between these two passages. God's Good News is the blood of the Lamb – Jesus' death and resurrection that wipes away all sin and brings me salvation and eternal life. And the lives shared with others is their testimony (and our testimony) – the way each one has personally experienced God's faithfulness, hope, grace, and love through the trials and suffering of this world. These two things together are a powerful thing in the body of Christ – powerful enough to defeat the enemy!

Certainly sharing with others the Good News of Jesus is what most of us believers strive to do in word and deed; God's word tells us to do so. But it is all the more powerful when it is combined with our testimony. I wonder how many of us shy away from sharing our lives, our testimony, how we have experienced God's hand, especially if our experiences have been painful. I know I do. I'm thinking here of the things that bring some measure of shame or pain, keeping us from wanting to share. But I know, because I have experienced it, and because these verses testify to it, that we can bring encouragement and healing to each other if we look for those God-directed opportunities to share our lives along with the Good News. To God be the glory!

- Cheryl

# NEEDS

- Urgent: 4x4 pickup truck, heavy duty
- New or good used electric stove for Windy Hill Farmhouse
- Working windmill and tower
- Medium sized enclosed U-haul type trailer
- Small propane forklift for use in Maintenance Center and wood handling. Urgent need as our present electric lift is dying fast and we can't get our firewood baskets down without it. (see photo)
- New gas fridge for Lakeside Cabin. – big expense.
- Grapple bucket
- New lawn mower



FORKLIFT

## ONLINE GIVING!

We can now receive donations online!  
Please visit our website:  
[www.wildernessfellowship.com](http://www.wildernessfellowship.com)  
and look for the "Give Online" link.

## Personalized Gift Certificates

### Suggestions:

*Pastors, Friends, Family, Wedding Gift, Anniversaries*



*Forms to purchase a gift certificate are posted on our website [www.wildernessfellowship.com](http://www.wildernessfellowship.com).*

# SYRUP FOR SALE



## Maple Syrup Poem

Upon entering their cabin to greet them, I (Randy) found "fake" syrup sitting on their table. I gave them grief over this, in jest of course, because we make the "real stuff" ya know, but then found this poem written out on a paper grocery bag and sitting on the table with the unopened bottle of "fake" syrup. Thought you'd get a kick out of this.

By Bob, Sandy, Steve, Scott and Deborah

*Forgive us Oh Lord  
For we have sinned  
For Hungry Jack should  
Never have beened  
Our table where pancakes  
And bacon were served  
Our wrong choice of syrup  
Has caused and un-nerved  
The one who has bottled the  
Best in the west  
Pure Maple Syrup and  
None of the rest  
Thank you dear Randy  
For setting us straight  
Only the nectar from God  
Did we ate!*

**WILDERNESS MAPLE SYRUP CAN BE PURCHASED AT THESE LOCATIONS:**

*NORTH HEIGHTS LUTHERAN BOOK STORE IN ARDEN HILLS, MN*

*HOSANNA LUTHERAN BOOK STORE IN LAKEVILLE, MN*

*WURDEMANN CHIROPRACTIC IN NORTH BRANCH, MN*

*ABELER CHIROPRACTIC OF ANDOVER, MN*

*SYREN GENERAL STORE IN SIREN, WI.*

*JIM WRIGHT IN ST. PAUL, MN*

*May still have some syrup: 651-633-5910*

## MEET THE BOARD: Pastor Brian Stephany

What an honor it is to serve the Lord through TWFM. His presence and peace rests over this ministry – something experienced every time I’m there, visiting with Randy, becoming spiritually recharged in a prayer cabin, reflecting in the woods, or enjoying the vista of a lake. I remember my first time . . . a time seeking the Lord’s guidance on a significant career change. No one at TWFM knew the purpose of my retreat – yet the ministry staff prayed for me and felt led to give a verse from Isaiah that matched the mission statement of my next faith-based employer. From thousands of verses . . . what confirmation!

As a new board member and treasurer, allow me to share a bit about my ministry and professional background. I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) with a degree in Accountancy, and then passed the CPA exam shortly thereafter before working for over 30 years in financial management, accounting, analysis, consulting, and ministry. My career has two related halves – the first 15 years in business working as an auditor, accountant, analyst, and financial manager. The second 15 has been in the faith-based and non-profit sectors with financial leadership roles in a large church and for two Christian organizations before venturing out to form Ascend Financial Ministries. Ascend provides value-added consulting and accounting services to smaller, faith-based organizations. God blessed me with the spiritual gift of administration and natural strengths in organization and communication. These enable me to serve Him and my clients with services that provide more meaningful financial information from which to make key ministry and strategic decisions.

I’m a member of the Twin Cities’ chapter of the Non-Profit Financial Group (NFG), the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), and North Central chapter of the Church Network. I also serve (with my beautiful wife, Kate) on an advisory board for Russ Berg Ministries, a divorce intervention non-profit that seeks to equip the Church to change the culture of divorce in America. Previously, I served my home churches as treasurer, finance team leader, stewardship team leader, vice chair, and chair,

Kate and I met at UNI and came to faith together as young adults. She works as a marketing director for United Healthcare Corporation. Kate is my best friend and we love to hike, bike, beach, walk the dog, travel, and relax at our cottage on the shore of Lake Superior. We have two grown children – Erin who lives in greater Los Angeles and is our adventure-seeking and travel-loving daughter; and Ryan who is a student at U.W. Stout and using his creativity and attention to detail to earn a degree in graphic design.

I’m a special ministry licensed pastor through the International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF), a member at Maple Grove Evangelical Free Church, and a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ yet in continual need of His grace. I love coming to TWFM to connect with the Lord through the prayer cabin ministry and am honored to serve on their board.



**BRIAN & KATE STEPHANY**

## GUEST FEEDBACK

Thank you for a wonderful and refreshing weekend away with my husband! We were so blessed by the many small (and big) touches of hospitality in the cabin. Thanks for your thoughtfulness and tireless work to refresh the weary. Many blessings, - *JTP*

Thank you so much for laying down your lives in service for the kingdom and to serve your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! I pray more blessing for this ministry and your families! - *CW*

Thank you for the caretaking of God’s promises. Hosea 2:14 - *CB*

It was so beautiful and peaceful here. I just can’t get over it. I felt God’s presence wherever I was at here. It was so serene. What you are doing here is such a blessing!!! My husband and I have been separated. . . He and I were able to spend time in prayer, mending, healing. It was amazing!! God has a plan. We just had to be open to hear it. Thank you for the opportunity. God bless! - *LB*



Bo Cabin photo by Lauretta Jacobsma

This is our 1st visit to TWF. It has been such an incredible blessing. We came with our church but were also able to spend some time alone. My soul was in such desperate need of rest and I was able to slow down and find it here. I’d love prayers to be able to take this peace with me and remember the beauty of resting in Jesus. Thank you! - *VT*

## Memorials

### GIVEN BY | IN MEMORY OF

Vi Fladland-Pugh  
Marianne Van Oort

*Don Fladland  
Harriet Thomsen;  
Arnold Van Oort*

Grace Holte  
Ruth Pearson

*Wayne Holte  
Loren Schmalz;  
Chuck Pearson;*

Don Sennes  
Gordon & Betty Olson

*Lois Klawitter;  
Prisha Laabs  
Sig Sennes  
Lois Klawitter;  
Timothy Olson*

## Honorariums

### GIVEN BY | IN HONOR OF

Jim & Paula Wright

*Louise Klawitter’s  
80th birthday*

Joe & Vanda Nelson

*Louise Klawitter’s  
80th birthday*

Steve & Beth Goblirsch

*Harry Hestness*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JANUARY 16, 2016 – PREPARE SERIES EVENT – ESTATE PLANNING

A discussion of the need for a good estate plan, including living wills/health care directives, last will and testament, trusts, power of attorney, transfer on death deeds, and how and why to avoid probate. Space is limited. (Watch the Bulletin Board on our website for details.)

## FEBRUARY 20, 2016 – PREPARE SERIES EVENT - LOVE AND RESPECT

Not just for married couples, this event is to help us better understand the opposite gender. All five prayer cabins are available if you want to make a weekend of it! (Watch the Bulletin Board on our website for details.)

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 21, 2016 • 3:00 P.M. • JOHNSON HALL THE WILDERNESS FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES ANNUAL MEETING

You are invited to join us for our 2015 annual meeting, a time of reviewing God's faithfulness to TWFM during 2015. All are welcome as we recap the year and praise God for His accomplishments in and through this ministry. Stay and enjoy dessert and fellowship following the meeting.

***We can now receive donations online!*** Please visit our website at [www.wildernessfellowship.com](http://www.wildernessfellowship.com) and look for the "Give Online" link.



The Wilderness Fellowship Ministries  
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