

REFRESHING TIMES

"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



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.



All Day Board Meeting

Enjoyed a great day with the Board. With the growth of TWFM there are many more large decisions that need wisdom and direction. Please pray for the Board members as they seek God's wisdom for all areas that need discernment and leadership which includes increased financial, directional and decisions related to staff. Also pray for God's leading as to the prospect of adding new board members to the leadership team.

New Staff

Cindy Merrifield — serves part time in the office and wherever else she's needed. She has jumped right in and been a huge blessing to us and to all who catch her on the phone making reservations. Welcome aboard, Cindy.



Michael Johnson — serving as full-time grounds and maintenance staff, he has jumped in on things that make the grounds look better and work better. Michael grew up right next to The Wilderness, as his parents built and used to own the house sitting right at our entrance on M. He said he had always dreamt of the possibility of working in his childhood backyard. He knows the land and trails by heart and so willingly pitches right in wherever needed. Welcome aboard, Michael.



Join us for 911 Prayer!

Join us in prayer, every morning at 9:11, as we call out to the Lord for the day's needs. At 911 prayer, the staff gathers every morning to lift up prayer requests from our guests as well as seeking the Lord's covering and care for the day ahead of us. If you want to join us at that time, just program your phone to give you a reminder and wherever you are, just lift us and the ministry up in prayer for a few minutes. Bless you!!



New Pump Needed For Fellowship Center

The Fellowship Center needs a new water pump in prep for a new heating system source. This is a big decision because it requires north of \$15,000 to meet costs. For many years we have barely squeaked by (and some years literally had to supplement with burning the fireplace around the clock) to meet the heating needs for the Fellowship Center. The heat loop is leaking and having trouble keeping up with the demands of our long, cold winters. So to remedy this situation, we have made the decision to convert to well water, which is a source of consistent heat to make the furnaces work efficiently. We

are trusting the Lord for the provision of this great financial need. Please Pray with us for this need to be met!

New Offices

In order to give Cheryl a work space that will allow her to more fully concentrate on the bookkeeping needs of TWFM,



we began yet another office expansion project last winter creating a new office space for Ethan Deal closer to my office and then moved Cheryl into Ethan's old office space. It has taken awhile but we finally got it done and the move made. This is a twofold blessing. I have Ethan D closer to me for the necessary consulting back and forth, and he has more room to do video shoots in his office. I also get to listen to his musical talents as he practices for leading worship. For Cheryl, it allows her to close the door and stay fully focused on the important books of keeping.

Hope Cabin Dedication

July 16th was a great day as about 25 people, all with special connections to the Hope Cabin build, met to have a time of dedication and thankfulness to the Lord and all those who had a part in building this great addition to the Prayer Cabin Village. Board member Brian Stephany and wife Kate saw the finished cabin for



Brian & Kate Stephany

the very first time the day before and were also able to stay in the cabin which they funded in memory of Brian's mom, Mary. What a blessing it was to share the fruit of their generous gift with them. We give thanks and glory to God for all who played a role in making the Hope Cabin a reality.

Grace Cabin Running Toward Finish Line

The interior siding and ceiling are done. The stone work on the chimney, and trim and flooring were just completed, as well as the exterior siding. The propane lines are in and before we know it we will have #10 ready to go. We still need to dig the outhouse pit and build the outhouse, and create a parking space, but we are making great headway on the cabin.



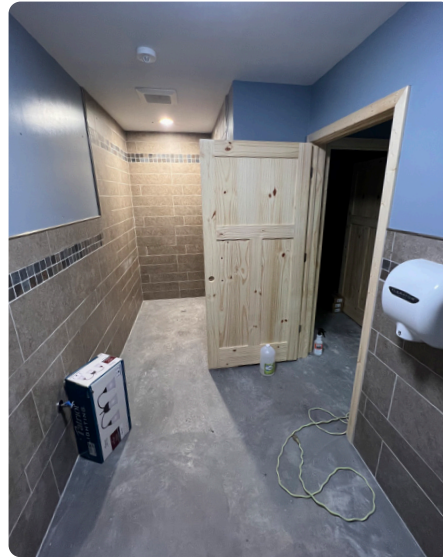
Shalom Cabin Update

Shalom Prayer Cabin build is rolling forward now with the building permit in hand and a starting date not far off. We praise God for Abid and Janet Rangoonwala, who are funding this cabin in memory of Janet's brother. The Lord is drawing skilled workers.

- o Framers – volunteered
- o Electric – volunteered
- o Stone work on fireplace – volunteered
- o Roof application – volunteered

It's so very encouraging to have skilled and willing volunteer helpers to reduce building costs and bring these little sanctuaries into reality. This will be our 11th prayer cabin. There are nine more sites waiting for someone to fund. We invite you to help us pray these in.

New PC Showerhouse



The new PC Showerhouse for the expanded PC village is painted and tile going in. This is a necessity to have done when the Grace Cabin opens. Larry has been working very hard on this new shower house with actually not a lot of work left. Placing toilets and sinks and grab bars and hand dryers is just about it. It is looking like it may also need a water conditioning system after all.

Another need that we have for that facility is someone who could help us put in the pavers along the side of the building and entries. We were able to purchase a bunch of pavers but just need someone experienced in laying them correctly so they remain level and stable. If you know anyone who would like to volunteer to help us with that let us know. God knows!

9 More Prayer Cabin Sites Available

The need continues to grow and we trust in the Lord for His divine provision for each one. We currently don't have any other prayer cabin sponsors who have come forward. We do have some who have hinted that they would like to fund one but nothing firm yet after the Shalom. The conditional use permit expires in the Fall of 2024, and we will have to renew it for another three years for any that we have not gotten building permits for, so we invite you to please lift this up in prayer. Nine more sites are waiting for cabin sponsors. We would love to have plans in the works for 2024.

-Randy



Randy Klawitter is married to Renee, and they have four children, five grandchildren, two sons-in-law and two daughters-in-law. 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, equipment operator, etc., and fills in wherever needed. If you have questions or comments, email Randy at randy@wildernessfellowship.com.

A Special Letter From The TWFM Board And Executive Director

Greetings to all of you.

It's not very common for me to write a special letter sharing a need and asking for extra prayer for things pertaining to this ministry that so very many of you have shared in already. It is not a normal or regular part of our ministry to do fund raisers or appeals for money but we do however share needs and invite you, our Wilderness family and friends, to earnestly join us in prayer as we see things on the horizon way bigger than us, that remind us of our complete dependence on Him. This is why we come to you now, to ask you to call out to the Lord on behalf of The Wilderness; that He would show himself powerful and He would open up the heavens with His abundant supply.

Even before covid hit I was sensing the Lord was saying "I'm going to ramp things up at The Wilderness." This has been happening in increased measure as we now are seeing more guests than ever before. Covid brought record breaking numbers of guests to us as they sought a place of Refuge, Peace, Restoration and Hope. Those numbers continue to climb even now. In the year 2022 our eight prayer cabins averaged 80% occupancy for all prayer cabins combined that year. The numbers have continued to increase in 2023 as well. Now with the new Hope Cabin which opened up mid-April, we already have 95 reservations on the books for that cabin alone. With potentially two more cabins coming online this year, we are experiencing a great increase in work load in all areas; in the office answering calls for reservations and in the grounds, maintenance, and facility upkeep. To keep up with the labor part of this, God has blessed us with two great additions to the staff team here. But it also means growing expenses and growing equipment needs to continue to maintain and expand the ministry.

We are in need of your prayers for Wisdom, Provision and Protection from the Lord. Would you partner with us in prayer for God to meet these growing needs by His gracious provision? Many of you have personally experienced the impact of taking time alone here with Jesus so you know the value of crying out to Jesus and asking Him to abundantly

meet the growing needs we are facing. Thank you for your prayers.

If you'd find interest in partnering with us in ways that God could use to help sustain TWFM for longer term, or if God would raise your curiosity in how you could help in additional ways, please feel free to call. Perhaps you know someone who could help us in the arena of naming The Wilderness in wills, annuities, or as beneficiaries, etc. We believe God can use that type of planning in huge ways as well. We continue to trust in His supernatural provision. It all comes from His hand. Blessings to you and thank you for giving me your ear for a few minutes here. He is able to do anything He wants and we daily look forward with anticipation as we watch and wait for His glorious provision. Your prayers make a huge difference and are so encouraging. There are some really big needs, but we know that God is bigger and absolutely able to meet them. Please join us in praying toward this.

-Randy & the TWFM Board

Needs/Wish List

- Large skid steer snow blower
- Road sanding bucket to scoop and spread sand on roads and icy hills
- Commercial duty 24" snow blower for trails to PC's
- Old fashioned lawn fertilizer spreader for spreading sand on prayer cabin trails. (call for info)
- New couches for Johnson Hall and Founders Fireside Retreat Center (call for info)

Help needed this Fall

- **Wood Baskets**
Many baskets have been filled but there are still many more. This is a project that can be done anytime, in any weather and for a few minutes or a couple of hours. Any takers?
- **Storm Clean Up**
We have many trees down from recent storms that need to be cleaned up.

THE ULTIMATE Marriage Retreat

WITH JONNY & AMY CLAUSSEN

OCT. 6-8, 2023
JAN. 2024, APR. 2024, OCT. 2024

Call The Wilderness office at 715-488-8564 to find out more details and to register. Or you can register online at:
www.wildernessfellowship.com/events.



Remember to register for the Marriage Weekend in October. Our prayer cabins are currently all full but sometimes we do have cancellations so keep checking. Also, we currently have 22 couples registered and we cut it off at 24, so there are still a few places left. Call now to secure a spot. If October doesn't work for you, we also have retreats scheduled for January, April and October of 2024.

BIRCH MERCH & MORLEY'S MAPLE SYRUP AVAILABLE AT TWFM OFFICE



PERSONALIZED GIFT CERTIFICATES



Gift Certificates can be purchased online or by mail. Please follow instructions on our website.

www.wildernessfellowship.com

DONATIONS

ONLINE GIVING

One-time or monthly recurring donations can be given on our website. Click on *Ways to Support Us* under the *Connect With Us* menu on our home page.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Check with your Human Resource office at your work place to find out if they will match gifts you make to non-profit organizations such as TWFM.

THRIVENT CHOICE

Thrivent Financial members: this is a charitable grant program that allows you to recommend where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable funds. You must designate the charity of choice each quarter. Please consider directing to The Wilderness Fellowship.

Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

GUEST FEEDBACK

Thank you for all the attention to detail put into these prayer cabins - the positioning for sunrise and sunsets, view out windows and porches, Scripture verses, encouraging words, lighting, warmth, comfortable beds, chairs and ample amount of hooks to hang personal items. Your gifting is being used to usher in the presence of God to all who stay - Thank you. **- NP**

Thank you so much for the wonderful stay! What a gift to recharge in nature and spend time with the Lord. This ministry is blessing so many. Thank you so much! The Lord bless you! **- LGM**

We had the most lovely and peaceful time, thank you for providing this sanctuary for believers! Truly a blessing for all those that come here. We feel closer to God and to each other, we pray that all other visitors feel the same!

- NR

TWFM is a huge blessing to me. I have three kids and therefore very little quiet time. This was very refreshing. God spoke to me, encouraged me, and prompted me to pray for others in my family/church. I have one child on the autism spectrum with challenging meltdowns. I daily need God's patience and all supplying energy. I am daily reminded that I'm not in control, God is in control and gives me the strength for each day.

- GK



EMBRACE CABIN

Thank you so much for providing this beautiful place to connect with God. God's presence was very near. Blessings on your ministry!

- EC

Memorials

GIVEN BY

IN MEMORY OF

Arleth Anderson
Todd Riggs

*Dale Anderson; Paul Huskamp
Cecil Eugene White "Gene";
Philip Aune; Gary Grev*

Mark Johnson
Mark Barrett
Kristi Bolson

*Walter Johnson
Marilyn Barrett
Virgil Showalter*

Arlene Desombre
Steve Goblirsch
Mark Helling
Paul Staswick
Paula Wright

*Bev Bryant
Bud & Mary Hestness
LTJG Marvin Helling, USN
Lois Klawitter
Jim Wright*

Honorariums

GIVEN BY

IN HONOR OF

Paul Kragness
Lois Robson
Paul Staswick

*Dick Klawitter's 90th Birthday
Dick Klawitter
Dick Klawitter*

UPCOMING EVENTS

ULTIMATE MARRIAGE RETREAT WITH JONNY & AMY CLAUSSEN – OCT. 6-8

The Ultimate Marriage Retreat is a call to hope, greatness, and destiny for every marriage. We begin with the Father's original culture, and from His starting point, we drop a plumb line to help you build the ultimate marriage. It's time to learn what heaven's idea about marriage truly is – because it's way bigger than you think! Register today by calling the office at: 715-488-8564!

2024 MARRIAGE RETREAT DATES:

ULTIMATE MARRIAGE RETREAT WITH JONNY & AMY CLAUSSEN – JAN. 26-28, 2024

ULTIMATE MARRIAGE RETREAT WITH JONNY & AMY CLAUSSEN – APR. 26-28, 2024

ULTIMATE MARRIAGE RETREAT WITH JONNY & AMY CLAUSSEN – OCT. 4-6, 2024

WILDERNESS WORSHIP – 3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH – 7:00 PM

An hour and a half of worshipping the Lord in song! No agenda, no preaching, just worship. If you're unable to attend in person you can join us on our FaceBook livestream.

UPDATES TO ALL TWFM EVENTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE EVENTS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

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