



# BOXCROSS

Spring - Summer 2022



# Note from the Director

by Matt Cox

## Lasting Legacy

This Spring the last of the founders of the Ranch passed on to their heavenly reward. It was around 60 years ago that two couples came together to build a kids camp in the hills of rural, North Western Pennsylvania. Their vision: To share the love of Christ and the hope found in Jesus, while using horses as a tool. It was the amazing love they had experienced in their own lives that was the driving force to share it with so many others. I was brought to salvation under the ministry of Dr. Dale and Mrs Opal Linebaugh as a child, and now I find myself in the Director's role of a ministry that has had an eternal impact in my life.



Miracle Mountain Ranch is not a monument to the Linebaugh or Sickler families, but rather it is a legacy of faithful obedience and commitment to the Great Commission. The mantle has been since handed off as each year passes, and as we see ourselves getting older, we also see the Lord raising up the next generation to carry on. Each year and each new generation has its unique challenges, but the truths of the Word of God remain steadfast during the most turbulent times. This is the legacy we hold to, that God's

truth and love for His children is eternal and enduring, and as long as He sustains us, we will continue to use this mountaintop as a way of leading others to Him.



## Summer Theme

This summer our theme is Amazing Love. Our goal is to help kids understand just how great God's love must be for them that He sent His only Son to stand in our place and pay the ultimate price for

our sins. But it doesn't stop there. Christ also imparts on us His righteousness when we accept His gift of eternal life. It doesn't get any more amazing than that! 1John 4:7-11 – "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."





# Progress Report

by Donnie Rosie



We are so excited to share that we have reached the goal for our Bunkhouse Campaign! The site is now an active area bustling with construction equipment and workers. Thank you to all who came alongside us during this campaign. Whether by giving finances or supporting the project in prayer – we couldn't have done it without you!

If you are a professional builder, electrician, drywall team or plumber and would like to volunteer for an aspect of this project, please let us know. With higher prices we would welcome help keeping this under the estimated \$150,000 project cost.

Our next project is the rebuild of Fort Wilderness. Last year we had a fire at our outpost Fort Wilderness in which the building and contents were lost. Although this was disruptive, it gives us the chance to reimagine the space and goals for this location. The Fort, as we called it, was a place where families and kids could go for a "camping out" experience. Kids during summer camp could add a night at The Fort to their camp experience. It was a multi-use area for campfires, activities, camping out, and serving meals.

This year we will be raising funds to rebuild and provide this experience once again to families and campers. It might take us a couple of years to raise the funds, but we are looking forward to seeing what God will do! Our goal to start this project is \$85,000. We will make this the focus of Warren Gives and much of our fundraising until the project is finished. Please pray for us as we seek wisdom in moving forward with this project. Thank you all again for your kindness in supporting the ministry.





# Glimpse Into Our Lives

by Jenni Cox

One of our favorite things about working with young men and women is that we have the joy of attending many weddings. This spring, three of the kids raised on staff will be getting married!



Megan Cox will be marrying Simeon Wallace on April 1st, 2022. Megan, daughter of Matt and Jenni Cox, has lived her entire life on the Ranch. Megan left for a little while but returned to work in the programming department. She and Simeon met while they were both summer staff in their teenage years. Simeon is from Canada so they have had the challenge of facing travel restrictions and border issues. Megan plans to continue on staff after their wedding.

Lindsey Carpenter, daughter of Mark and Shari Carpenter, will be marrying Zach Mitchell of Corry PA on May 1st, 2022. They met at the local high school in town and will be living and working in the local Corry area. We are excited they are staying nearby!



Matthew Hungerford, son of Chip and Sandy Hungerford, has been working in our equine department for the last couple of years. He met Marissa Paquette while she was a student in our School of Discipleship program. They will be getting married on May 28th, 2022. Matthew plans to continue on staff while Marissa may be working in town as a nurse.



Chad and Miriam (Schweyer) Martin were married on Oct. 9th, 2021. Chad is also from Canada and is volunteering full time in our School of Discipleship while his immigration paperwork is completed. Miriam served in house-keeping before they were married, and is now helping with landscaping and bunkhouse renovations. It is a blessing to have them serve alongside us.

Megan, Matthew, and Miriam are all still working to raise their support as they are fairly new on staff. If you would like to bless them in this way you can at [mmrm.org](http://mmrm.org). All gifts given to MMR for staff support are tax deductible.





# SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP



As we write this, winter's not over yet! School has been progressing as normal, despite the buildup of ice and snow we've had over the course of the last couple months. I am continually fascinated by the reality that just as the appearance of activity can hide great idleness, so the appearance of stillness can hide great activity. From the outside, it may look like Miracle Mountain Ranch is shut up for the winter behind ice and snow. But in the classroom, our students' hearts are burning with a love for God and his Word. This month our students have finished Systematic Theology, and their love for the Word and curiosity about the central truths of the Christian Faith are as encouraging to me as ever. They are also studying the book of Romans this month, to see how it is that the just God can justify sinners by faith. It may be cold outside, but that has not stopped our students from pursuing that for which Christ has taken hold of them (Philippians 3.12). Please pray for our students as they continue to take hold of Christ by faith, and as they round the corner into spring with all the opportunities for service the next season will afford.



# Retreats & Events



## Horse Lovers Retreat | May 6 - 8

Are you looking for a weekend adventure to broaden your horsemanship skills? Our Spring Horse Lover's weekend focuses on arena classes to help give you insights into riding and training skills while developing a deeper relationship with Christ. Some of the classes may include: English and Western riding, ground training, trail obstacles, and trail rides.



## Father Son Retreat | May 20 - 21

Take this opportunity to step back and focus on growing in God's Word and building a strong father-son relationship during this rustic, two day, one night, retreat. Friday afternoon activities will include paintball or a trail ride! On Saturday we will be taking a canoe trip on the magnificent Allegheny River! The retreat will wrap up with supper on Saturday evening following the canoe trip.



## Open House | May 30

We invite you to join us on Memorial Day for a day filled with fun, western activities. Open House is a great time for you to find out what Miracle Mountain Ranch is all about! Doors open at 10:00 AM and festivities wrap up at 5:00 PM. We offer pony rides, trail rides, a vaulting demonstration, a Memorial Day service, a Message from the Mount, and much more!



## Golf Scramble | August 26

Enjoy a rousing game of golf for a great cause! Proceeds will go toward the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, enabling kids to have the opportunity to experience camp at Miracle Mountain Ranch. This is a great opportunity to have a great impact in the lives of children!



# Retreats & Events



## **Family Camp** | August 11-14, September 2 – 5

Family Camp weekend is a great opportunity for you and your family to get recharged after a busy summer. Experience great fellowship with other like-minded families, and a variety of activities including trail rides for ages 8 and up, pony rides for younger ones, wagon rides, swimming, basketball, confidence course, hikes, gopherball, campfires, an optional game of paintball, and more.



## **Fall Horse Lovers** | September 23 – 25

Our Fall Horse Lover's weekend is more of a relaxed weekend focusing on enjoying God's creation while riding our scenic trails. Other options include pony cart driving, vaulting, training demonstrations, trail obstacles, as well as arena classes to get you more familiar with riding. There will be open campfire cooking and many hands-on cowboy experiences all flavored with an ample portion of genuine western hospitality.



## **Ladies Retreat** | Sept. 30 – Oct. 2

Come join us for a weekend of refreshment and restoration as we enjoy God's creation and the fellowship of others! This weekend offers encouraging sessions, hikes, trail rides, wagon rides, crafts, and other activities. Come make new friends or bring a group from your area for a memorable weekend. We would love to have you join us as we seek God's face for what He desires to teach us through His Word.



## **Homeschool Day** | October 6

This fun and educational field trip will be a unique homeschool adventure. We plan to provide wagon rides, a Message from the Mount, fire safety training, animal science, interaction, and more. This day will run from 10:00 AM until 3:45 PM.

# Retreats & Events



## Harvest Party | October 15

This is a perfect event for youth groups, church groups, families, or individuals. We will have a variety of harvest games, activities, Message from the Mount, snacks, Cowboy Campfire, wagon rides, trail rides (pony rides for ages 7 and under), concessions, a pie baking contest that includes a silent auction, and more! This event begins at 10:00AM and will conclude at 5:00PM.



## Christmas Party | December 3

Come join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior with a time of singing, fellowship, and food. Feel free to invite friends and bring some finger foods or cookies to share. This festive event includes Christmas carols, decorations, finger foods, cookies, hot drinks, a memorable wagon ride through our western town, and great fellowship with friends. Doors open at 6:00PM. Program begins at 6:30PM. We hope to see you there!

## WANTED ITEMS

- Pony Vaulting surcingle
- Driving harness for small draft
- Vaulting saddle pads
- Shovels
- Leaf and garden rakes
- 4' and 6' ladders
- Laundry Baskets
- Floor Squeegies
- 32oz Water Pitchers
- Brooms
- Pruning Clippers
- 30' extension ladder

You can view these items and more on our Amazon wish list. Go to our website, click on "Wanted Items" and follow the link to our amazon list.













## Prayer

- School of Discipleship - for wisdom going into the summer and for next year's students
- Summer Camp - for safety, bunks to be filled, and hearts to be touched
- Scholarship - for the funds to be raised and the kids to be reached
- Summer Staff - for the supply of young people willing to serve
- Volunteers - for the many hands needed to make our summer run smoothly
- Retreats - for direction as we plan and attendees
- Mexico Mission Trip - for safety and an impactful time
- Bunkhouse Project - Safety, good weather, and volunteers for the construction phase and to be ready for summer
- For the sale of equipment to provide for general operating costs

## Praise

- School of Discipleship - for the work that God is doing in the students lives
- Summer Camp - for registrations coming in, camps are filling up quickly for the upcoming summer season
- Winter Retreats + Events - well attended
- Safety in travels to various conferences and events
- Mission Trip - plans are coming together for Mexico
- Bunkhouse project: the funds are in, the permits and plans are in place, and construction has begun
- For the many donors who make the ministry possible



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