



BOXCROSS

FALL / WINTER 2024



**SUMMER
CAMP 2025**
dates inside!

Note from the Director

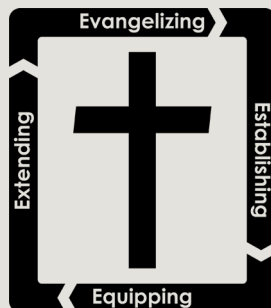
by Matt Cox



Over 60 years ago, the Lord laid on the hearts of the Sicklers and Linebaughs the need to start a youth camp in Northwest PA that would proclaim the name of Christ. After much prayer and waiting on the Lord for things to fall into place, Miracle Mountain Ranch began its ministry. 60 years later, the Lord has been gracious to use the Ranch to impact thousands of folks over the years with the truth, hope, and love of Christ.

What was started as solely a summer camp has grown into a year-round ministry. The Ranch is blessed to not only continue to host summer camps, but also retreats, events, and our School of Discipleship. We've branched out with an annual mission trip to Mexico and travel to conventions and conferences in various states. Attendees fly in from all over the world, and we've now hosted multiple international students in our SOD program. What started as a tiny camp on a rural hilltop has extended into the world!

The Box Cross brand, (which you will find on our publications, in the name of one of our riding arenas, and on the left hip of many of our horses) reminds me of the calling of this ministry since it began. The Cross in the middle of the Box reminds me that Christ is to be the center of all that we do. Each side of the Box represents the 4 E's that we purpose to do as a ministry; Evangelizing to the lost, Establishing believers in their faith, Equipping them for effective Kingdom work, and finally Extending (or sending) them out to impact the



world for Christ. This was the mantle that was faithfully handed to me 14 years ago, and it is the one that I am committed to handing off when my tenure here is done. Having served here for over 30 of the camp's 60 years, I remember many of the staff that have come and gone. God has wonderfully provided a great diversity of gifts and talents, passions, and pursuits amongst our staff. Truly, the Ranch's resident staff are one of our greatest assets. In the 1960s, the staff was composed of a few staff pioneers who were willing to step out in faith to see the ministry begin, and in a sense, that spirit is still a part of the staff today. We are always asking ourselves how we can do things more effectively. Our resident staff serve on mission support: they trust the Lord to provide for their needs as they serve here.

Has our world changed in 60 years? Most definitely! The culture has changed dramatically and the needs of our attendees continue to be ever-changing, but the answer remains the same; Jesus. He remains the only true source of lasting hope. He is the only way we might find eternal life. He is the giver of peace, restorer of what is broken, and redeemer of our souls. He transcends cultural patterns and divides. He is the answer to all of it.

What these 60 years have shown us is that we serve a faithful God who has sustained His ministry through many highs and lows. We are completely aware that even beyond talent or ability, it is the Lord that gives success. It is He that protects and provides, enables and strengthens. So thank you Lord, for all of your goodness over these 60 amazing years!

Progress Report

by Donnie Rosie

Here is our report on projects we have worked on throughout this spring, summer, and fall season, including upgrades, repairs, and maintenance at Miracle Mountain Ranch.

Fort Wilderness The first turret of Fort Wilderness was finished! This new space was used for our overnights during Summer Camp, a church fellowship night, staff outings, and Horse Lovers' retreat. We will continue to use it for other upcoming events. This summer, we also received a \$32,000 grant from the Warren Community Foundation for the Fort. We are very thankful for this investment, and plan to start building the second turret before the snow comes. We will do as much as possible this winter and continue as spring arrives. Our vision is to eventually add restrooms, allowing us to host retreats at the Fort.



Volunteer Updates We could not operate this ministry without volunteers. Throughout the past few months, we have had volunteers who worked on staff housing, painted the Ox Yoke, cut grass, washed dishes, served as Camp Nurse, ran equipment, fixed equipment, cut trees, and much more. If you are one of those volunteers, we say thank you!

New Archery Center Teddy Purdie and Josh Snyder completed the archery center with a second-story shooting area and finished the landscaping. Thank you to The United Fund of Corry, which helped accomplish this with two grants. Thousands of youth will use this center, which is one of the most popular areas on the ranch.



New Freezer Early this spring, our freezer died. Individuals and a church in Indiana stepped up to cover the cost of over \$10,000 in needed repairs. It was fun to see God work in this way, and Darci Hatley sure is excited to have a nice, cold, working freezer for all of the Ranch food!

Staff Housing Our end-of-year campaign last year involved purchasing the Conklins' property. Thankfully, with the help of many supporters, we were able to pay off the mortgage on that property! However, the second part of that project is to restore the farmhouse on the property so that a staff family can use it. Our leadership believes the house would be great for the Marshall family, who are quickly outgrowing their current home on the Ranch. This will open up their house to be available to another staff family. Even though we have made progress, more staff housing is still needed. We are estimating the cost of the rebuild to be around \$150,000, which will be the main focus of our coming end-of-the-year campaign. If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring one of these ongoing projects, please let us know. Once again, we couldn't do any of this without you. We so appreciate each one of you and your kindness to the ministry.



Glimpse Into Our Lives

by Jenni Cox

Fall is always a fun time on staff. It's a time of shifting gears from the intensity of summer camp to students graduating and a whole new group being introduced (and getting used to) their new life at the Ranch. This season welcomes in our line-up of fall retreats, and many staff are getting their kids adjusted to the school schedule again. It's easy to take for granted, as staff, the opportunities to fellowship that summer camp naturally provides.

Every month we have a grading day where students turn in their projects during a meeting with their advisors, and in the evening we all come together for a time of fellowship and testimonies. This is such a precious time as a staff and a fun way to reconnect. There is quite a pack of little ones running around enjoying their playtime together.



Here are a few of our staff kids that you may not have met yet (pictured to the left):

Lucy Hungerford: Born to Matthew and Marissa Hungerford in March. (Matthew works in our Equine Program).



Lydia Snyder: Born in May to Nathan and Kelsey Snyder. (Nathan serves in our Operations Department).

Montana Bridges: Born in June to Josh and Alyssa Bridges (Josh serves as our Camp Director).



What a joy it has been to watch these precious babies and all of our staff kids grow over the years in stature as well as in their walks of faith. We look forward with great anticipation to what the Lord has in store for each of them.



SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

by Daniel Stanley

This time of year, the School of Discipleship is alive with the excitement of new beginnings. At the beginning of September we inducted a new class: 18 first-year students and 8 second-year students. Our first-years have had a flurry of orientation classes in their first several weeks, from learning the ins and outs of the kitchen to finding their way around the Ranch to the basics of wrangling, our students are doing it all.

In addition to the furor of activity around camp, the students are hard at work in the classroom this fall. Essay Writing, Bible Hermeneutics, Technology and the Christian Life, and Intro to Counseling are some of the classes our students have had in their first several weeks of the program.

The goal of all this training, inside the classroom and out, is not that our students would merely gain certain skills or knowledge; rather, our hope and our aim is that our students would become a certain kind of people. The goal of everything that we do in the School of Discipleship - from morning chores to evening events and activities - is to foster within our students a love for the Lord and a love for people, and to equip them with the tools needed to live out that call to love with wisdom and skill. So please pray for our students as they begin this year. Pray that they will be alert and attentive to all God is teaching them, that their hands would grow strong and their hearts would be soft, and that they would do all that they do for God's glory and for his kingdom.



RETREATS & EVENTS



Christmas Party | December 7

Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior with a time of singing, fellowship, and food. This festive event includes Christmas carols, decorations, finger foods, hot drinks, a wagon ride through our western town, and great fellowship with friends. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and the Program begins at 6:30 pm.



Youth Winter Blast | January 10-12

Join us for our Winter Blast Retreat! The weekend will include adventure-packed activities such as trail rides, octoball, tubing (weather permitting), and much more! Our weekend starts on Friday, January 10th with registration at 4:30 pm and wraps up on Sunday, January 12th at 12:00 pm. Don't miss out on this fun-filled event for ages 9-14.



S.A.L.T | January 17-20

For teens considering the School of Discipleship, S.A.L.T. is a great way to experience ranch life first hand. Personal devotions and Bible classes as well as fun games and activities are all on the schedule! You will also gain valuable insight into what it takes to make a ministry function as you experience the various departments of MMR. This retreat is for ages 13-20.



Men's Retreat | January 31 - February 1

In a culture in which Biblical manhood is often under attack, it has become even more necessary for men to encourage one another toward spiritual growth. Registration for this retreat begins Friday at 4:30 pm and conclude after dinner on Saturday. If you would like the opportunity for a few more activities and another night at the ranch, we invite you to stay and leave after breakfast on Sunday for an additional \$20/person.

RETREATS & EVENTS



Couples' Retreat | February 21-23

Experience a weekend of connection, growth, and gospel-centered teaching. Our goal for the weekend is for you to deepen your relationship with your spouse as you fellowship with other couples too. Expect engaging chapel times, group projects, and fun activities to help you strengthen your relationship. This weekend will kick off Friday at 4:30 pm & wrap up Sunday at 10 am.



Quilter's Retreat | March 6-8

Join us for a weekend of finishing or starting those quilting or sewing projects you have been meaning to get to! We will hear encouragement from Scripture, enjoy fellowship with other sewers, share quilting or sewing tips, and enjoy delicious meals. If you have fabrics, notions, patterns or other sewing/ quilting related items that you no longer want or need, bring them along to place on our "share table."



Family Fun Weekend | March 14-15

This weekend is designed for families to make memories and be encouraged in truth. The weekend will include activity options for the whole family. Registration will begin on Friday at 4:30 pm and conclude after dinner on Saturday. If you would like the opportunity for a few more activities and another night at the ranch, we invite you to stay and leave after breakfast on Sunday for an additional \$20 per person.



Mother Daughter Retreat | March 28-29

This weekend is designed for mothers and daughters to enjoy quality time together. Whether you are looking to take a trail ride or do crafts, this weekend has much to offer! Registration will begin at 4:30 pm on Friday and conclude after Saturday dinner. If you would like the opportunity for a few more activities and another night at the ranch, we invite you to stay and leave after breakfast on Sunday for an additional \$20 per person.

RETREATS & EVENTS



Photography Summit | April 4-5

Whether you are a beginner or not, we invite you to come and join our growing community of artists! Come and grow in your abilities to create art for the glory of God and connect with other photographers who are passionate about what they do. The weekend will be a combination of both class time and hands-on learning opportunities. Registration starts at 2pm on Friday and event concludes after dinner on Saturday.



Father Daughter Retreat | May 2-4

The relationship between a father and daughter is so very special. Come for a weekend of quality time, refreshing fellowship, fun activities, and rich truths from God's Word that will better equip dads and their girls to live their lives for the glory of Christ. During this retreat, you'll find a relaxed environment as well as active options for fathers and daughters to enjoy together.



Spring Horse Lovers' | May 9-11

Are you looking for a weekend adventure with a western atmosphere to broaden your horsemanship skills? Join our qualified staff for a weekend of scenic trail riding, practical ground classes, open-fire cooking, and genuine western hospitality! This retreat will teach riding and training skills while also helping you develop a deeper relationship with Christ. If you'd like to bring your own horse, contact MMR for more info.



Father Son Retreat | May 16-18

Take this opportunity to get away and share some quality father-son bonding time together in the great outdoors at Miracle Mountain Ranch. There will be a variety of activities including shooting sports, trail rides, paintball, the woodsman challenge, and time on our low-ropes Confidence Course.

See you at
OPEN HOUSE!

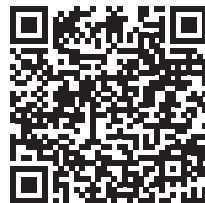


We invite you to join us on Memorial Day for a day filled with fun, western activities such as trail rides, a vaulting demonstration, and tomahawk competitions! Open House is a great time for you to find out what Miracle Mountain Ranch is all about. Doors open at 10:00am with a special Memorial Day Service at 1:00 pm. This is a free event!

WANTED ITEMS

- Office chairs
- ESV or NKJV Bibles
- Pop-up canopies
- Select vet creams
- Office supplies
- Archery arrows
- New camera lenses
- Guest room amenities

You can view these items and more on our Amazon wish list by scanning the QR code here.



Amazon Wish List



Host your own retreat!



Are you looking for a retreat for your school group, 4H group, youth group, church, extended family or business? Plan your own retreat at Miracle Mountain Ranch to create a program that fits your needs. All our retreats come packaged with facilities, food service, programming, music, and speaking.

Visit our website to learn more.



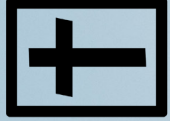


PRAISE

- We are praising the Lord for 60 years of His faithfulness!
- We had an amazing summer of ministry with nearly 1,200 youth attending summer camp.
- A tremendous fall line-up of Retreats were well attended and the Lord really blessed us.
- We have 26 students this year in the School of Discipleship.
- We had the opportunity to help scholarship 244 kids so they could attend summer camp. We are thankful to God for the many generous individuals, churches, and organizations that helped make that possible.
- We were blessed by a great summer team of staff and volunteers.
- God provided full barns of hay.
- Fort Wilderness was able to be used for the summer camp season.
- We rejoice in the faithful service of our resident staff.
- We praise God for His protection in health over the busy summer months.
- We are so thankful for the many donors who help make the Ranch ministry possible.

PRAYER

- Please pray for the graduates from the School of Discipleship, as well as Summer Staff, Volunteers, and Ranchers that made commitments this past summer, that their relationships with God would continue to deepen.
- Pray for the current class in the School of Discipleship as they seek the Lord.
- Please pray for winter retreats and traveling safety to many conferences and events.
- Pray for wisdom as a ministry, as we make plans for facilities and programs to accommodate growing and changing needs.
- Please pray that the resident staff would be encouraged in their service to the Lord and for the provision of their financial support as well as housing needs.
- Please continue to pray for God's provision for finances as we continue to focus on the completion of the Fort project, guest housing, and resident staff housing.



Miracle Mountain Ranch

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