



BOXCROSS

SPRING & SUMMER 2025



Note from the Director

by Matt Cox



Our theme for the upcoming season is “Draw Near.” We’ll be focusing on Hebrews 10:19-25. *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*

There are so many wonderful truths found in this passage. I love this phrase “hold fast”. It’s a beautiful picture of clinging tightly to something with a passion of not letting go. But it doesn’t just mean to cling to it, but also to stand on it. We hear the term “hold the line” in war documentaries, or “hold firm” and stand your ground. It is not just grabbing ahold of that promise, but then of making it your ground to stand on.

There are many promises given to us in scripture to hold fast to, but the one we claim here is that of our eternal hope in Christ Jesus and the promise of eternal life with Him because of His righteousness, not our own. There is one requirement that He possesses that enables us to do this. It is HIS faithfulness, not our own. God is the ultimate promise keeper.

Paul also gives further instruction that we are to consider or study each other so we might effectively stir up each other regarding love and good works. We not only need encouragement to be loving and do good works towards others, but also to meet together. We need the fellowship of the body! And the need will INCREASE, not decrease, as His coming grows closer. We live in a world that allows us to neglect fellowship with others in place of short texts, social media interactions, online church services, and “virtual” everything! Do we deliberately engage with others enough to even have the opportunity to “stir” them and be stirred ourselves?

I was looking recently at the final words of Joseph who, in Genesis 50, reminded the Israelites of God’s promises at the time of his death. While he knew he wasn’t going to see it with his own eyes, he still believed that one day God would take them up and restore them to the Promised Land. The promise of God through Joseph is that God would come and take them up. This is the promise that Jesus gives to those that follow him. John 6:40 says *“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

It’s easy to walk through the daily trials of life and be bogged down by the myriad of tasks that bombard us. It’s easy to look down at the next step and forget that we walk with a great promise ahead of us. We pray that as a ministry, we will faithfully teach others about our great God, that we will stir others up to remember and encourage them to keep walking in faithfulness and draw near to Christ. What a blessing to introduce folks to the faithful God who always keeps His promises. He will take us up!



Progress Report

by Donnie Rosie

Staff Home Renovation

We have been focusing on renovating a former staff house that has been vacant for the past year. We have been updating the kitchen, plumbing, and other areas that needed fixing after a water line break and doing some work on the house's exterior.

This project is nearly finished, and the house is almost ready for a new staff family to move in.

Town Hall Kitchen

We have been working on medium-sized projects on the Ranch during the winter. The office staff have been renovating the kitchen/meeting area in the town hall by removing the cabinets, painting, and updating the floor, all of which will make this space a better meeting place.

Fort Wilderness

Last fall, we started on the second turret of Fort Wilderness, but we did not have time to finish before the weather changed. We are back at it and hope to get the frame up soon. Our goal is to have this second turret ready for use during the summer.

New Staff Home

Our next big project is a full renovation & remodel of a new staff home. You probably remember that we purchased 90 acres and a farmhouse last year. God supplied us with enough to pay off the mortgage, and we have raised enough money to start renovating the house. This will be a big project because the house is in need of significant work. So far, we have been fundraising, assessing the needs, and cleaning it out. We plan to start the renovation side of the project soon. We still need to raise approximately \$30,000 for this project, and we would welcome volunteer construction crews.

Playground Project

We are moving the playground from behind the Ox Yoke to behind the Brokenstraw. We envision this being a much more interactive and expansive play area for families and youth to enjoy (see model below). Join us in supporting the Ranch during Warren Gives on May 14th as we raise funds for this project and the scholarship fund. (*More information on page 5.*)



We have 700+ kids already signed up for summer camp and anticipate an exciting spring retreat season. This is also the season for accepting staff for summer camp. We could not do camp without staff and volunteers! The staff at Miracle Mountain Ranch appreciates your prayers as we disciple youth and families and share the hope found in Jesus Christ with our community and the world. We invite you to attend an event or volunteer at the ministry.



Glimpse Into Our Lives

by Jenni Cox

We've had the joy of welcoming three new staff babies over the past few months.

Edmond James was born in October of 2024 to Daniel and Cherish Benedict. Daniel serves in our School of Discipleship. They are both alumni of our S.O.D. program. At the end of December, **Rowan Jude** was born to Chad and Miriam Martin. Chad works in our School of Discipleship as Student Coordinator and part time as Ranch Bookkeeper. He and Miriam are both alumni of the program.

Tobias Lee was born to Adam and Chelsea Marshall in January of 2025. Adam works in the Operations department and is also an alumni of our S.O.D.

It has been a joy to meet and watch these little ones grow over the past few months. Each of them was welcomed into a home with older siblings so they are getting lots of extra love from them as well! Their moms are all an active and integral part of our ministry, so it's very common to see them around camp with a little one strapped on to them.



Some of our older staff kids are enjoying getting horse-back riding lessons from the barn staff once a week. They also have the opportunity to learn vaulting (gymnastics on horseback) and do a demonstration for the public at Open House on Memorial Day. One of the boys is learning to weld alongside the students under the watchful eye of one of our teen operations staff. There is a pack of young boys who are becoming quite skilled in Pickleball and Corn Hole due to many opportunities to practice!

Growing up at camp is full of unique experiences, some hard, but always riddled with blessings and opportunities that might not otherwise be there. Many of our staff kids take on summer jobs around the Ranch as they get older. At first this may look like helping the lawn crew, doing meal prep or cleanup, restocking candy in the Buckboard store, or working in the Critter Corral. Many have become counselors, horsemanship instructors, programming assistants and even come on staff full time!

A Warren County Day of Giving

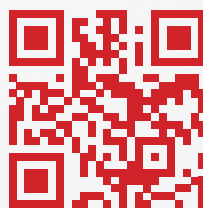
WARRENgives

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

6am to 10pm

www.warrengives.org

Please consider giving to Miracle Mountain Ranch on May 14th by scanning the code here:



WANTED ITEMS

- Office supplies
- ESV or NKJV Bibles
- Toiletry sets
- Veterinary supplies
- Spray bottles
- Pop-up canopy
- Acrylic paints
- Toothbrushes



Amazon Wish List

*You can view these specific items and more on our Amazon wish list.

Retreats & Events



Open House | May 26

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 10:00 am with a special Memorial Day Service at 1:00 pm. This is a free event!



Golf Scramble | August 22

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 wonderful opportunity to have a great impact in the lives of children! This event will take place at Corry North Hills Golf Course. Registration starts at 12:00pm.



Family Camp | Aug. 6-9, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1

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 enjoy a variety of activities including trail rides for ages 8 and up, pony rides for younger kids, wagon rides, swimming, basketball, confidence course, hikes, gopherball, campfires, and more.



Horse Lover's | September 19-21

Our Fall Horse Lover's retreat is a relaxing weekend focused on enjoying God's creation while riding our scenic trails. Other options include pony cart driving, vaulting, training demonstrations, trail obstacles, and arena classes to get you more familiar with riding. There will be open campfire cooking and many hands-on cowboy experiences.

Retreats & Events



Men's Sportsman's Weekend | Sept. 26-28

Whether you are a seasoned sportsman or someone just getting into firearms and archery, this weekend is for you. Practice your skills with firearms and archery equipment. Skeet shooting and a marksman competition for rifles and archery will be on the schedule. You can expect outdoor activities and Gospel teaching as we open God's word together.



Ladies Retreat | Oct. 3-5, May 1-3 (New!)

Come experience a weekend of refreshment and restoration as we enjoy God's creation and the fellowship of others! These weekends offer 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 experience. We would love to have you join us as we seek God's face and learn what He desires to teach us through His Word.



Homeschool Day | October 2

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, used book sale, animal science, and more. This day will run from 11:00am until 3:45pm. If you register online, the cost is \$8/person. Day of registration is \$10/person.



Dinner Trail Ride | October 10

Are you looking for an evening spent enjoying God's creation? Join us for a trail ride through the lovely fall colors. Stop to savor a cowboy-style meal, and listen to God's Word. After you enjoy some smoked pulled pork, a dough boy cooked over the fire, and our signature Dutch oven cobbler, we will mount back up and return to the Ranch. The cost is \$60 per rider.

Praise

- **School of Discipleship** - for the work that God is doing in the students' lives.
- **Summer Camp** - registrations are looking like we'll see a well attended camp with several camps filling up already.
- **Winter and Spring Retreats** were well attended!
- **Mexico Mission Trip** - continued opportunities for ministry.
- **For the many donors who make the ministry possible.**
- **Resident staff** - for their faithful service.

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 and changed.
- **Scholarships** - for funds to be raised and kids to be reached.
- **Summer Staff** - for a supply of young people willing to serve, particularly counselors.
- **Volunteers** - for the many hands needed to make our summer run smoothly.
- **Retreats** - attendees this spring and plans for the fall.
- **Resident Staff** - health, financial support, and encouragement in the work.
- **Mexico Mission Trip** - for safety and an impactful time.
- **Resident staff position needs** - Financial Secretary and House-keeper
- **Ongoing projects** - For safety and funding for our Fort and playground projects as well as the Conklin home and bunkhouse renovations



SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

Do you ever get the feeling, with the coming of spring each year, that the world is waking up from sleep? It often seems to me, for whatever reason, that I'm waking and thawing with the spring too. Perhaps it's the shot of vitamin D to the system that creates this sensation of waking, but whatever it is, my students experience it too. All winter, they've been working hard in their schooling and areas of focus, they've been leaning into relationships in the dorm, and doing the hard



wrestling with the claims of the gospel necessary to change and grow. Now, we're seeing the fruit of so much of that winter struggle. Things are beginning to click for them, their relationships are deepening, and they're seeing the payoff in their own lives of the work they've put in.

It seems to me that this is simply the pattern of Christian life. Life, death, and new life is not just the course of the seasons, but reflects the turning of the heart of the man or woman in Christ as well. How not to be haughty when we feel spiritual vigor, and how not to fall into sin or despair when we are spiritually dry—these are lessons every Christian must learn.

It's good for our students to learn these lessons now, and to be served by them for the remainder of their lives and ministry. It's good for some of us who are older, as well, to see as we walk with our students; they often impress upon us again the importance of lessons learned and forgotten.



There are only a few months left in the academic year, followed by the summer season where our students will take positions of leadership on our summer team. Please pray for our students as they complete their studies, that they will persevere. Pray also for us as we look ahead to the 2025-2026 year, and ask that the Lord will send us a full class!



Daniel Stanley
Director,
School of Discipleship



Follow us on Instagram!
@miraclemountainranch





Miracle Mountain Ranch Missions, Inc.
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Spring Creek, PA 16436
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