



# BOXCROSS

WINTER 2025

**SUMMER  
CAMP 2026**  
dates inside!

# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Matt Cox



Weddings are beautiful. My wife, Jenni, and I have been blessed to teach a class called "Marriage Dynamics" to the students in the Ranch's discipleship program for over 20 years now. It is a yearly reminder of the amazing design and picture that God gives us of His relationship to His church.

Because the Ranch's School of Discipleship is made up of college age students, weddings throughout the year for our alumni are the norm. We recently celebrated the wedding

of our daughter Emily to the Ranch's program director, Josiah Gross.

It's interesting that scripture begins and ends with a marriage. It starts with the beautiful union between Adam and Eve and concludes with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Marriage contains so many wonderful pictures of what it is to live a life in pursuit of Christ. It challenges us to sacrificial love, not a conditional one. It's a daily reminder to lay down our life for another. It speaks to oneness, selflessness, communication, joy, and so much more.

Many young ladies dream of that day when they get to be a bride. They envision the setting, dress, and groom. But one of the most beautiful aspects of that moment is that they have been CHOSEN, set apart, picked out of many, to be the bride of this groom. In that moment, she is lavished with the promises of commitment, faithfulness, sacrifice, acceptance, and love. She is pursued and wanted by her groom. That's the picture of Christ to His church, to us. We have been lovingly pursued, though not because of any great attribute of our own. We are loved, but not because we were lovely. In fact, we were disgustingly sinful. We are wanted, not because we are worthy, but because His love for us is boundless. We are a bride that brings nothing to the altar but ourselves, just as we are. It's only because of HIM that we can be presented spotless, blameless, pure.

In Martin Luther's 1520 essay called "On The Freedom of a Christian," Luther teaches how we are saved by grace and faith, not by works. He also draws parallels between marriage and our union with Christ. He explains that if in marriage, two become one flesh, then it follows that all they have becomes theirs in common. In marriage, both bride and groom bring all their resources to bear. In our union with Christ, Luther states "Sin, death, and hell will belong to Christ, and grace, life, and salvation to the soul. For, in giving her His own body and Himself, how can He but give her all that is His? And, in taking to Himself the body of His wife, how can He but take to Himself all that is hers?" In other words, this is the picture of "imputed righteousness." We take on all that is good, lovely and wonderful that He brings to this union, and He takes on all the filth and sin that we bring. There is not a greater picture of love than this. He has NOTHING to gain from us and we have EVERYTHING to gain from him!

People use the word *magical* when it comes to weddings. I prefer the word *miraculous*. The Miracle of a wedding between a bride and groom is that God does what only God can do when he takes two and makes one. How much greater the Miracle of our Salvation in making us one with Christ! This is truly a Miracle we should celebrate each day.

# PROGRESS REPORT

by Donnie Rosie

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There have been so many great projects happening around the Ranch. Although dry weather is not good for growing hay, it is good for projects! We do estimate that we will have enough hay for this winter season. Our harvest was lighter than last year, but hopefully still enough to provide the high-quality hay that we need. The farming team was able to sell a hay mower and buy a newer mower. The new mower had an issue that the team was able to fix up, and it has been working great. We have also cleared some brush from around the high pasture and added several more acres for hay production. As a result, we were also able to



move and upgrade our shooting sports backstop and find some great rocks for the new play area that the program is building behind the bunkhouses. We have been planning and acquiring materials for the new play area. Funds are at 100%, so we will work on this project in late fall and spring, ensuring it is up and running for the 2026 season. Teddy Purdie and Josh Snyder are overseeing this project. Please let them know if you would like to volunteer to build with them this spring. We are, once again, working on Fort Wilderness. We completed the outside of the



second turret, and we are now working to complete the interior of the turret for use in the 2026 season. We plan to host a Father-Son retreat and other events at the Fort next year. Other projects include: a new roof for the single-wide trailer, a kitchen renovation for the guys' School of Discipleship dorm, finishing the Chunderleks' house, field work, landscaping for staff homes, as well as some other projects, including working on the Settlers' Bunkhouse.

The Settlers Bunkhouse is slated for added bathrooms to both units (adding to our list of growing units with bathrooms!) and a porch off the front facing town, like the rest of our bunkhouses. We are still working to convert all the units we can so that each one can have their own restroom. This makes them much more usable for retreats in the fall, winter, and spring. It also takes pressure off the central restroom during summer camp.

As you probably know, the ceiling in the Town Hall has needed resurfacing for some time now. We have decided to place a metal ceiling that has small holes, which will limit the sound echo in the room. This will mark the first phase of the gym's update. Later, we plan to resurface the sides of the room as well.

It is a blessing that we have 60 years of history here at Miracle Mountain Ranch, but we are still striving to keep up with the maintenance and improvements so that we can continue to serve people well as we serve Christ well. Hospitality is a way to show love to all people who attend here for events, camps, retreats, and beyond. If you are interested in giving to a project or bringing a team to serve, please let us know! We couldn't do it without you.





# GLIMPSE INTO OUR LIVES

by Jenni Cox

We've had some exciting changes on the Ranch since spring!

Jacob Roth married Sienna Sovereign on May 30th. Jacob serves on staff as our Assistant Program Director and they are both alumni of our School of Discipleship program. Sienna has been a blessing to join us on staff and volunteers in various departments. Their wedding was a fun reunion of alumni over the past few years.

Ian Henry Purdie arrived as our newest staff member on August 11th after a busy summer for the family. His parents, Teddy and Noelle Purdie were very excited for his safe delivery and he is joyfully embraced by his 3 older siblings, Hannah, Ruby, and Justin.

On September 14th, Josiah Gross, our Program Director, married Emily Cox, daughter of Matt and Jenni Cox. The Lord blessed the day with beautiful weather for the outdoor wedding in the grove of trees next to our Fort Wilderness location.

As a staff, many of our families are shifting housing units due to one unit being remodeled since the last family moved out, and another family moving off of the facility. Our staff families continue to grow in size so we need to make adjustments to meet their needs. We anticipate this winter helping to move a lot of furniture and do needed maintenance and upgrades on these units as they are discovered.







# SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

by Daniel Stanley



A few weeks ago we inducted a large new group of students to the School of Discipleship—38 young men and women! A big class comes with big energy, and they have been spending that energy this fall in relationship building, horse riding, Bible study, on-the-job training, and more besides. It's a joy for us to have such a large and energetic group to work with. And these students know, as well as we do, that the goal of all this activity is not just to get things done, but to train for kingdom work.

Jesus came into the world to do his Father's will, and he calls us to be about the Father's work as well. Bible classes, riding and training, and work time all have a purpose beyond themselves, to equip us to spread the good news of the kingdom and build up the body of Christ. Pray for our students this year, and for us, that we will be mindful of what it is that we've been placed here by the Lord Jesus to do, and that we'll do it with all the energy that he supplies (Colossians 1:29).



# RETREATS AND EVENTS



## Christmas Party | December 6

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 9-11

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 9th with registration at 4:30 pm and wraps up on Sunday, January 11th at 12:00 pm. Don't miss out on this fun-filled event for ages 9-14.



## S.A.L.T | January 16-19

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 30 - 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 AND EVENTS



## Couples' Retreat | February 20-22

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 Retreats | Mar. 5-7 & Mar. 19-21

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."



## Photography Summit | April 17-18

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.

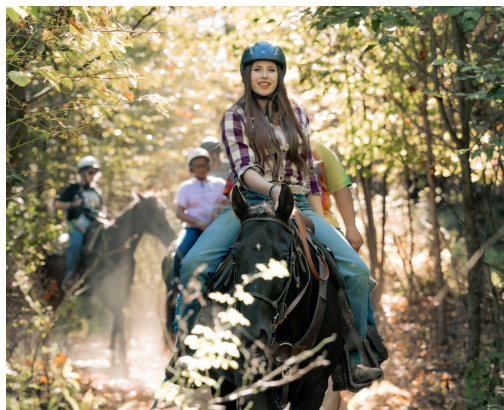


## Father Daughter Retreat | April 24-26

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.



# RETREATS AND EVENTS



## **Spring Ladies' Retreat** | May 1-3

Come experience 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 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.



## **Spring Horse Lover's** | May 8-10

Our 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 all flavored with an ample portion of genuine western hospitality.




## **Father Son Retreat** | May 15-17

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.



## **(New!) Memorial Day Weekend Family Camp** | May 22-25

This new Family Camp is a great opportunity for you and your family to kick off the summer! Experience great fellowship with other like-minded families, and enjoy a variety of activities. This weekend will begin Friday afternoon and flow into our Memorial Day open house on Monday.

A child is climbing a grey rock wall with colorful handholds. The child is wearing a black and white patterned shirt and a safety harness. The background shows green foliage.

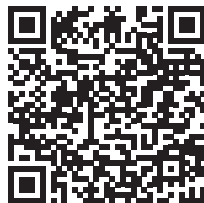
## See you at OPEN HOUSE!

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 chair
- ESV or NKJV Bibles
- Rakes & shovels
- Angle grinder
- Office supplies
- Archery supplies
- External hard drives
- 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 had an amazing summer of ministry with over 1,200 youth attending summer camp.
- A tremendous fall line-up of Retreats was well attended and the Lord really blessed.
- We have 38 students this year in the School of Discipleship.
- We had the opportunity to help scholarship 350 kids so they could attend summer camp because of 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 despite a dry summer season.
- The second Turret of the Fort has been completed and construction is beginning on our new playground.
- 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, Summer Staff, Volunteers, and Ranchers that made commitments this past summer, that their relationship 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 in both 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 provision of their financial support as well as housing needs.
- Please continue to pray for God's provision for Ranch finances as we continue to focus on guest and resident staff housing.



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