

FALL 2008 vol. 4, Issue 2



Rolling Ridge

† Retreat and Conference Center

A VIEW FROM THE RIDGE

Our 60th Year!!

Join us on September 20th from 10 a.m. to 3.p.m. as we celebrate 60 years of Rolling Ridge Ministry. Tour the Historic Mansion and the grounds, see recent improvements, meet friends, renew acquaintances, enjoy some jazz.

Excitement is growing about our first **Wellness Expo**. It will be an opportunity to meet some of our retreat leaders and experience what services we offer. Anniversary attendees will get to try: Yoga, chanting and meditation at Point of Pines, walk the labyrinth, color mandalas and other art projects, receive a massage (chair, feet, or hands), get their blood pressure checked. We hope to also offer opportunity for dummering, tai chi, and more. A naturalist will lead tours of the grounds and tours of the mansion will feature the new refinished floors & paint in the main house.

A gourmet luncheon will be served under the tent (\$15) as we celebrate a glorious past & a bold future. Speakers will include Reverends Cynthia Good, Larry Peacock, and Jim Todd. Please RSVP for the luncheon to 978-682-8815, or email us at thestaff@rollingridge.org.

Sightlines- Views from the Director



Destination Place

Every major religious faith has the tradition of a pilgrimage. Whether it is to Jerusalem, Mecca or the Ganges River, travelers have sought to visit holy places. There is a three fold structure to a pilgrimage: separation from ordinary life, journey to a special place often in the company of others in hopes of an experience of the extra-ordinary and lastly a return home as a changed or enlightened person.

This brief description of a pilgrimage can also apply to a retreat center as a pilgrimage destination. All kinds of people are seeking out Rolling Ridge, a place quite different from the fast pace, bright lights and loud noise that most people deal with every day. As the quote on our entrance wall says, "come away to a quiet place and rest awhile." People feel the need to disconnect from blackberries and cell phones and reconnect to something deeper.

After settling in at Rolling Ridge, the second part of the pilgrimage begins. It may be mostly an inner journey, yet one with questions and challenges. If one is making a personal retreat, how does one organize one's time if there are no outside demands? What ways will be used to listen to the deepest truths and the silent stirrings of the soul? How does one befriend the silence or walk the labyrinth? What new understandings or directions does one sense?

If one is at Rolling Ridge for a group retreat, the challenges and questions shift somewhat. Who are the others also on this journey and how will they contribute to the pilgrimage? How does one practice openness to the retreat leader and the suggestions given? What are the challenges in learning or experiencing something new? Can one be aware of the countless number of prayers that have occurred in this estate for the 60 years it has been a retreat center? As one walks the grounds, can one sense the beauty of these hills and trees on the shores of Lake Chochichewick?

Every meeting at Rolling Ridge is an invitation to learn, to grow, to experience something of the peace and joy or challenge of God. This is a special place that helps people get in touch with what is deepest and most important about life and living.

But one does not live at a retreat center. There is always the going home, hopefully more rested, and with an almost inexpressible experience of the Divine.

So come on pilgrimage to Rolling Ridge. We are a lot more economical that going to Europe. We have some great programs scheduled for this fall and winter. We have rooms set aside for making a private retreat. We have space for groups to come mid week and on some weekends. Call us for your pilgrimage experience at Rolling Ridge.

Larry J. Peacock

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OUR 60TH YEAR CELEBRATION!!! SEPTEMBER 20TH 10AM-3PM
978-682-8815
North Andover, MA 01845
660 Great Pond Road
Rolling Ridge
† Retreat and Conference Center



THANK YOU!

- To the donor who matched gifts to the floor project. We have refinished the floors in seven bedrooms, one hallway, & the oval room. One more donation will enable us to refinish the library. The floors are stunning in their natural beauty.
- To all who contributed to our spring appeal.
- To our summer program counselors, directors, nurses, and volunteers!!
- To Dick Banks for organizing the Ralph York Chair Memorial.
- To our summer lifeguards: Caroline Pristash, head Lifeguard! Gavin Lynch, Nicole Estrada, Sara Heros, Whitney Adrian, Katelynn O'Brien, Erica Potts, Jacob Peters, and Giovanna Ventola.
- To Iric Rex, architect, for initiating an article about Rolling Ridge and efforts to go green. Two local newspapers wrote news stories.
- From Habitat for Humanity- "Thanks for providing accommodations for the Cambridge group from New York as they spent a week building new homes in Lawrence".

NEW GROUPS AT ROLLING RIDGE

Gloucester UMC, Unitarian Universalist Ministers, All Saints Church, 2nd Congregational Church, First Parish Sudbury, Sacred Heart School, Erin Murphy Writing Retreat, Family life Fellowship, New England Library Association, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce.



Join us on December 9-11 for an Advent Retreat: Attending to Stillness & Hope.

Register Today!!

Watching a Documentary about Polar Bears

Trying to Survive on the Melting Ice Floes

That God had a plan, I do not doubt.

But what if His plan was, that we would do better?

Mary Oliver



"On the way to Bethlehem"

A Day Apart Rolling Ridge Program, coming December 2nd!

PROGRAM CALENDAR (for details, see our Program Offerings insert, or visit www.rollingridge.org)

SEPTEMBER

Sept 4	Intensive Ministry Reflection w/Alice Mann!	9:30am-3pm
Sept 20	Rolling Ridge's 60th Anniversary Celebration Music. Food. Friends. A Wellness Expo!	10am-3pm
Sept 27	Drawing Near to God	8:45am-3pm
Sept 29	Companions on a journey: William Sloane Coffin	9:30am-3pm
Sept 30	Writing: Deeply Contemplative, Wildly Creative	9:30am-3pm

OCTOBER

Oct 1	The Enneagram: Advanced Workshop	9:30am-3pm
Oct 4	Going Deeper	9:00am-4pm
Oct 7	Aliveness: Aligning Actions and Faith	9:30am-3pm
Oct 20	Mindfulness & Christian Contemplative Practices	9:30am-3pm
Oct 25	Drawing Near to God	8:45-11:45am

NOVEMBER

Nov 6	Intensive Ministry Reflection w/ Alice Mann.	9:30am-3pm
Nov 8	De-Stress II	9:30am-3pm
Nov 13	Call to Simplicity	9:30am-3pm
Nov 18	Discover your Divine Flame: Remember-Renew-Rejoice	9:30am-3pm
Nov 22	Drawing Near to God	8:45-11:45am

DECEMBER

Dec 2	On the Way to Bethlehem	9:30am-3pm
Dec 6	Going Deeper	9:00am-3pm
Dec 9-11	Advent Retreat	3 Days

SUMMER & YOUTH



Thirteen elementary children, some for their first nights away from home, enjoyed an Elementary weekend retreat at Rolling Ridge. Under the leadership of Lori Bergman, son Jason, and assistance from Jonathan Stadig, Robin Ellsworth, and Dan Wilson, the children considered the theme "Handle with Care". Campfire, s'mores, swimming, making "eyes of God" and other crafts proved popular. Thanks to Janet Pickles who served as nurse for the weekend.

Nineteen Middle School youth bounded upon Rolling Ridge in July met by energetic leaders: Reverends Jeff Hunt, Director, Allen Ewing-Merrill, Herb Taylor, and Leigh Dry, and dedicated counselors Kim Wright & Erica Tobey. Care for the earth, capture the flag, devotions at Point of Pines, swimming and the dance filled their days & nights. Thanks to Jeff Hunt who also served as camp nurse.



Twenty-six Senior High will be arriving after this newsletter is printed: Patti Coffil, Jenny Cannella, John Disney, Dee Spinelli, and Jim Blatchford will lead the group.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI- COME TO THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY ON SEPTEMBER 20TH FROM 10AM-3PM



RENOVATION PROJECTS

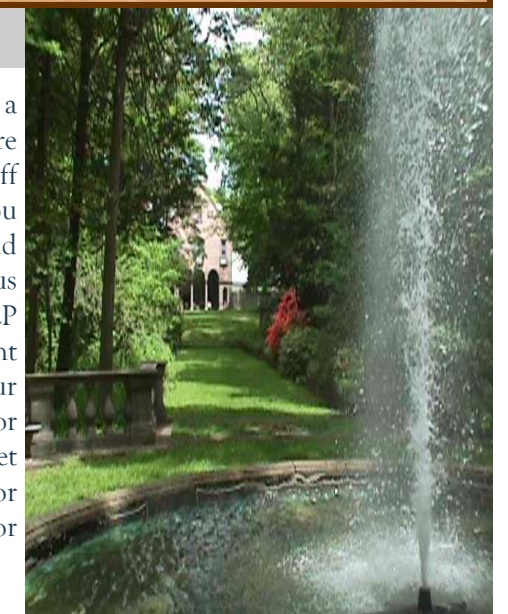
THE BEDROOM PROJECT— The six bedrooms in the main house have been repainted and we have purchased 24 new mattresses! To complete each room we need new color coordinated window blinds and curtain valances, as well as new bedding. Cost for each room: \$1400. Call us to choose your room, or buy one new Hunter Douglas roller shade for \$240.

THE FLOOR PROJECT— Thank You for your contributions! We have refinished the grand stairway and seven bedroom floors, the oval room floor, and one hallway. The wood floors in all those rooms gleam. We like them so much, we want to refinish the library oak floor and then the front entrance with new tiles. Library cost: \$300. Entrance and hallway- \$12,000. You can purchase a tile for \$30 each.

BOOK A RETREAT!

*Come away
to a quiet
place.....
and rest
a while.*

Do you belong to a group looking for a place to hold a retreat or conference? Are you looking for a place to hold a staff lunch and planning meeting? Do you want to get away for some rest and renewal? Come to Rolling Ridge! Call us for your meeting needs. We have a DLP projector available for your PowerPoint presentation; we have WIFI for your computer work; we have quiet space for you to relax. Our staff is trained to meet your needs. Call 978-682-8815 X11 or email AGW@rollingridge.org to check for availability.



THE ROAD PROJECT



One of the consistent comments from the planning study was, "fix the road". DK Engineering has helped map the wetlands and prepare the drawings to obtain needed permits from the Town of North Andover. Permit costs & engineering studies are anticipated to be around \$17,000. Donations are welcome and gratefully received. You may use the enclosed envelope.

PLANNING STUDY

Demont & Associates of Portland, ME conducted a planning study to determine the interest in, and support for the Master Plan for Rolling Ridge, a plan that includes an expanded dining room, manor house renovations and a new retreat lodge. After conducting 50 interviews and 3 focus groups, Demont is recommending a multi-million dollar capital campaign for 2010 contingent upon significant groundwork and promotion in these next 2 years. If you have questions or wish to help in shaping the future of Rolling Ridge, call Director, Larry J. Peacock at 978-682-8815 or Board Chairperson, Cynthia Good at 978-475-7041.

BOARD MEMBERS

The Planning Study recommends that Rolling Ridge add 5 new board members. We are looking for persons who are supportive of the mission of Rolling Ridge, have experience with non-profit governance particularly in business & fundraising, and who can contribute to and work in the Capital Campaign. Contact Larry Peacock with any names.

UNDERWRITE A PROGRAM- FUND A SCHOLARSHIP

Your support keeps our programs affordable and available to those who need a time of rest & renewal. Take a look at our exciting fall line-up and make a donation to support these programs. Call Director, Larry J. Peacock at 978-682-8815 to make a donation for scholarship or to underwrite one of our retreats.

THE CHAIR PROJECT

In honor of Rev. Dr. Ralph York, one of the founders of Rolling Ridge, we are seeking to replace our dining room chairs. Beautiful new wood chairs will replace the current creaking ones. For \$60 you may "endow" a chair in memory of the pastor who had the vision of Rolling Ridge becoming a conference center. Dedication of the chairs & honoring of Rev. York will happen at the 60th Anniversary. Thank You for your donation.

RIDGE ON THE ROAD

Director, Larry Peacock will be leading retreats for several churches this fall. Call Rolling Ridge if you are interested in a speaker, preacher, or retreat at your church or organization.

LASTING LEGACIES

Recently Rolling Ridge received a gift from an insurance settlement. We are grateful for the generosity of people who support Rolling Ridge in creative and thoughtful ways. Call Director, Larry Peacock, if you would like to make a lasting legacy gift to Rolling Ridge.

NEW FACES AT THE RIDGE

Introducing-

GARY HALL- new Facilities Manager at Rolling Ridge. Gary has a landscape and construction background, and is active locally as a sports coach and landscaper.

MARCELLE DOTSON is a United Methodist Minister spending her sabbatical looking at issues of poverty and spirituality while making Rolling Ridge her home base. She will be helping with hosting, promotion, and worship duties while living at the Ridge.

Say "hi" to our new Kitchen Manager, **Mike McDermott** and new kitchen aids **Martha Rullo & Madison Eckles**.

Drawing Near to God



In this eight month program, participants will explore their personal spiritual journeys in a group setting, and learn about and practice a variety of spiritual disciplines. These well-tested tools lead to a greater awareness of the Divine in all of life. Each session will include worship, presentation, discussion, personal practice and reflection time. Participants will be assigned readings in preparation for each session. All the leaders are trained spiritual directors and retreat leaders. Participants will also be encouraged to be in spiritual direction while in the program.

With my whole being, I thirst for the Living God.

Psalm 42:2

REGISTRATION FEES

Fee for the 8 month journey is \$510, which includes all program costs, morning coffee & sweets, and 3 lunches. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due by September 1, 2008. Balance is due September 27, or in two installments: Choice 1, Sept 27: \$460, or 2: Sept 27 & Feb 28, 2009: \$230.00 each.

Dates: 9/27, 10/25, 11/22, 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 5/2, and 5/30.

Looking for a Special Place for your next Event?

Rolling Ridge hosts large & small groups in the 40 room mansion. Our 22 bedrooms can sleep 80 youth (some in dormitory-style rooms) or 40 adults (no dormitories!). Our chef can prepare food for 10 or 100 in our lakefront dining room. The 38 acres on Lake Cochichewick provide quiet walking trails and benches for rest and reflection. There is picnic and parking space for up to 300 people.

Call our Guest Services coordinator, Alison Green Will, (978-682-8815 X10) to book your business, group, church, synagogue, or family reunion at Rolling Ridge.

Evenings at the Ridge

Drumming returns this Fall! Once a month, Jane Gossard leads a drum circle at the ridge. No Experience necessary. Bring a drum if you have one, or use one of the African drums or rhythm instruments Jane brings.

2008 Drumming Dates:

September 23,

October 14,

November 18

And

December 2

7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Registration cost:

\$15 in advance/ \$20 at the door

Drumming for Joy!

Sharing rhythms from the heart

Going Deeper

Four Quarterly Saturday Retreats to deepen your Faith walk



"Growers of grapes know that the vine must not be tied too tightly to the trellis, but just snugly enough so that it is supported and free to flourish. Like the vines, we too need to be supported but not constricted, held up but not rendered immobile."

-Margaret Guenther, At

Home in the World

Discovering the support and structure you need for your spiritual journey is the goal of "Going Deeper". The four retreats will take you on a path to identifying, developing, and claiming the spiritual practices that will sustain your journey. Historically, this is called "a rule of life" and each participant will create their own. Each retreat will include input from the leaders, sharing, worship, meditation, and practice. Readings and monthly reflection papers will be assigned between retreats. Lunch included.

Dates: 10/4, 12/6, 3/7/09, & 6/6/09. Registration: \$440

Fall Renewal Days



9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

A self directed day of renewal. Use our labyrinths and walking trails; go kayaking or canoeing; spend reflection time in our library, common rooms or outdoor worship space.

Free wireless internet access is available. Gourmet lunch is included. \$40 per person

Add on therapeutic massage, reiki, or craniosacral therapy for an additional \$60 fee.

Private Spiritual Direction is also available for a fee of \$40

Call 978-682-8815 to register in advance. Body therapies and spiritual direction based on availability. Renewal days available Monday-Friday, September thru December.

On the Horizon

- The Program Committee is exploring a bi-weekly worship service that will be available as a pod cast.
- Director Larry Peacock met with a communications professor from Rhode Island about a DVD on Rolling Ridge.
- Watch for an article on Rolling Ridge in an upcoming issue of *Merrimack Valley Magazine*.
- Several Eagle Scout projects are in the planning stages.
- Conversations have begun with local doctors and hospital administrators about developing Rolling Ridge as a center for programs linking body, mind and spirit. Pre-surgery preparation, mindfulness meditation, and retreats for cancer patients & families have been discussed.
- Emmaus comes to Rolling Ridge this Fall.

Youth Events this Fall

ANNUAL LEAF RAKING!!

November 9, 2008 from 1 p.m.- 7 p.m.

Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we clear the grounds of Rolling Ridge to prepare for winter. Help us by raking the leaves and we'll provide a pizza supper and dance afterwards. Bring a rake, your friends, and \$5 for the scholarship fund. Please let us know you're coming by contacting us at thestaff@rollingridge.org or call us at 978-682-8815



Come One, Come ALL!

2nd Annual Rolling Ridge Christmas Craft Fair



Once again, Rolling Ridge is hosting this popular event!! The Fair will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 9am-3pm. Crafters from throughout the community are invited to participate. Do you know a crafter who might be interested in joining us? Interested craft vendors can receive details on our web site at www.rollingridge.org, or contact the office at 978-682-8815, or email ellen@rollingridge.org. Rolling Ridge will have a tasty luncheon, a bake sale and a silent auction. Do you have a contribution for the silent auction? If you have a service or an item to donate, please contact us. If you are willing to solicit local businesses to get donations, we'd love the help. All proceeds will support the mission and ministry of Rolling Ridge. We hope that you will help us in promoting this event. Looking forward to seeing you there!!



HARVARD & ROLLING RIDGE

In January 2009, Rolling Ridge will become the living studio for a class of landscape architects at the Harvard Landscape Institute. The class will study the Fletcher Steele designs and develop a new plan for restoration of the grounds, fountain, and flowers. Margaret Coffin Brown of the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation of the National Park Service will be the instructor. On site visits by the students as well as research in the Steele archives will be part of the class. Executive Director, Larry Peacock and Board members will be invited to view the student projects & plans for restoration of Rolling Ridge grounds. This is an important step leading to the funding of the restoration. Heather Heimarck is the director of the Harvard Landscape Institute.

60th Anniversary Celebration!! Food. Music. Activities. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. September 20th

OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISORY BOARD

Thanks to a group of wonderful individuals from around the country who serve as the Rolling Ridge Spiritual Advisory Board. They pray for Rolling Ridge, consult and advise the director, and help with promotion and fund raising. Our thanks to these wise and knowledgeable leaders who under gird our efforts with prayer and support:

- **Ron DelBene**, *The Hermitage*, Memphis, TN
- **Elise Eslinger**, *Musician, teacher*, Dayton, OH
- **Jerry Haas**, *Upper Room Ministries*, Nashville, TN
- **E. Glenn Hinson**, *Baptist Seminary of KY*, Louisville
- **Theodore W. Loder**, *Author, Retired United Methodist Clergy*, Philadelphia, PA
- **John Mogabgab**, *Editor, Weavings*, Nashville, TN
- **Margorie Thompson**, *Upper Room Ministries*, Nashville, TN
- **James Todd**, *Former Rolling Ridge Director*, Lawrence, MA
- **Barbara Troxell**, *Spiritual Director*, Claremont, CA
- **Peter Weaver**, *Bishop, NEUMC*, Lawrence, MA
- **Wendy Wright**, *Author*, Omaha, NE
- **Flora Slosson Wuellner**, *Author*, Fair Oaks, CA

Rolling Ridge Wish List

- 4 new computers for our office
- A New Computer Server
- A new Television/DVD combo
- New dressers for the bedrooms
 - ATV for the grounds
- Regular or roll-top Chafing dishes
- Stand fans for our guest rooms
 - A Kayak
- Chef Coats and Kitchen Aprons
 - Area Rugs
 - Rocking Chairs
 - Large shade Umbrellas

To make a donation or get more information about our wish list, please contact us at 978-682-8815 or by email at thestaff@rollingridge.org, or use the enclosed envelope.