

Coming Home

News from The Bishop's Ranch

Spring 2019



Taking Stock at a Time of Transition

by Rev. Pat Moore, Chaplain at The Bishop's Ranch

This will be the last of my rather irregular reflections for the Ranch newsletter. And, in truth, I've been procrastinating putting words to screen.

I will retire as Ranch Chaplain on June 2, at the end of this year's Acorn Society meeting. It's been a wonderful ten years. I've had the privilege of working with an amazing group of people—who do their work with heart and a dedication to the ministry of hospitality that is at the center of Ranch life. I've worshipped in a beautiful chapel with people who are committed to living faithful lives, whose wisdom, love, honesty, and good humor make a difference in this world of ours. We've grown together in our sharing of silence and letting our worship flow from that silence. I've had the opportunity to help create new programs, and explore new ways of doing things. There have been lots of meetings, with staff and board, and committees, and outside groups, too.... But also, I've gone to camp, played capture the flag, and chosen to make a fool of myself performing with my granddaughter Sawyer in annual skits at Generations Camp. I've kayaked down the Russian River, walked the perimeter of the main buildings before dawn scanning the hills for fires, accompanied staff and chapel folk through hard times and joyous times, hiked the trails, prayed the prayers, made beautiful friends, and eaten oh-so-many amazing meals!

In these ten years much has happened at the Ranch. So many retreats, programs, camp sessions—so many people renewed and nurtured

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Looking Back: The Power of BREAD

by Frank Klopotoski, 2019 Assistant Camp Director

Dazed and confused after a back-seat siesta, I slowly looked up and tried to remember where I was. Within two seconds, the vineyards gave it away and my anxiety came back in a flash. I was familiar with the drive down Westside Road to The Bishop's Ranch, but this time I wouldn't be staying with my family. I'd be spending my first week alone at sleepaway camp. I'd done extensive research about BREAD Camp but still had so many questions. Will they make me read the Bible? Are we actually camping out? Most importantly, will I make any friends? Little did I know that I would end up making this drive dozens of more times as a camper and staffer.

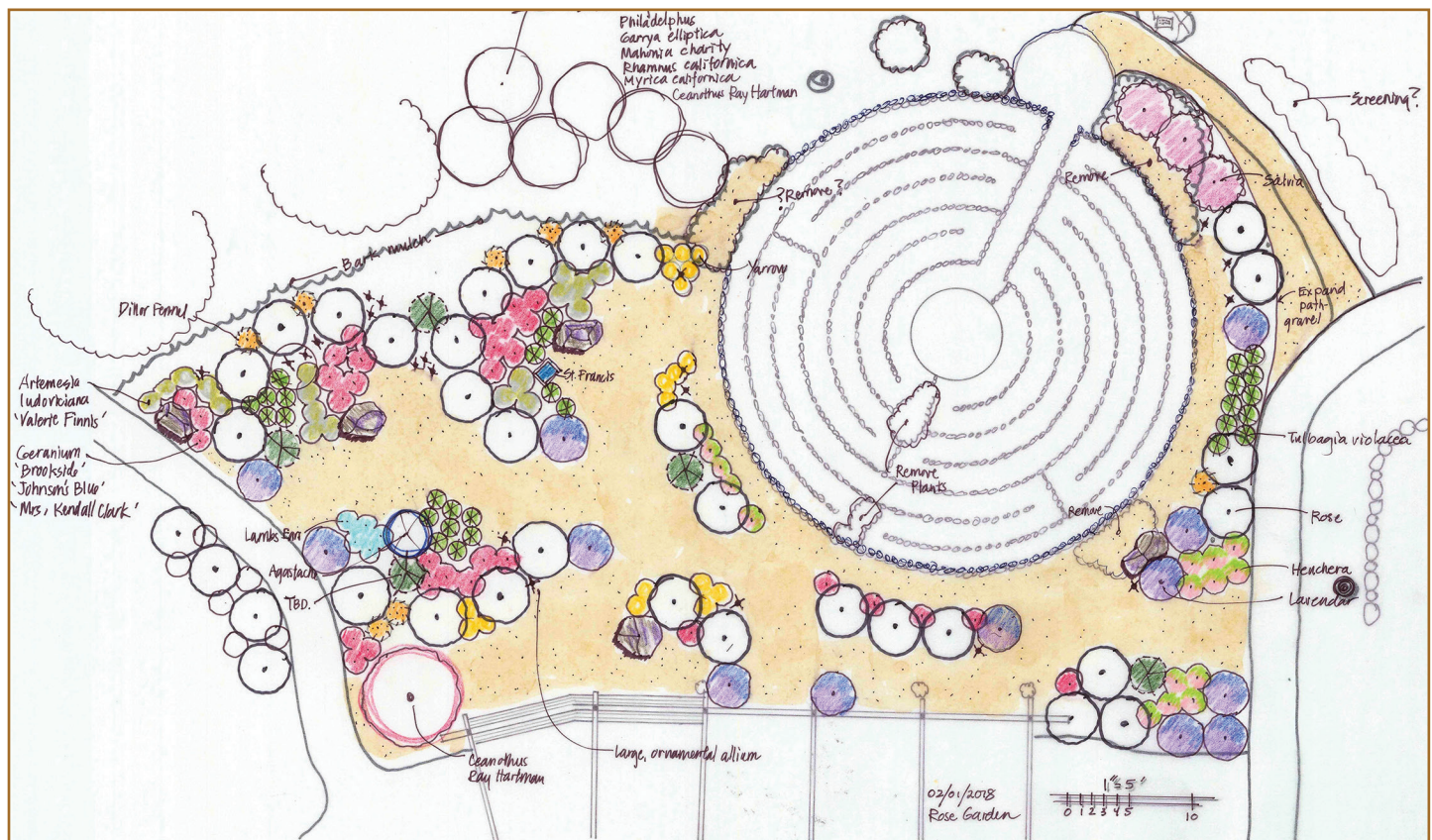
Right after my arrival and introductions with cabin-mates, the whole camp of angsty middle schoolers and staff members met for music in St. John's Meeting House. On the surface, someone looking to energize a group of middle schoolers who don't know each other could not choose a worse welcoming activity than singing songs about Jesus together. I moved to the back quicker than the counselors could pronounce my last name, exchanging looks among the wallflowers.

But as the songs progressed, I was shocked to see all of the counselors jumping around like they were at Woodstock. For the first time in my life, it was actually cool to enthusiastically participate in a scheduled activity. Once my new friends and I took note of this unexpected development, we started to get more comfortable during music. By the third day, I was up front

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A New Blooming Space: "Stop & Smell the Roses"

by Jane Marx



Over the years, we have been working toward creating a (mostly) native, drought tolerant, or adapted Mediterranean landscape at the Ranch. The large vision is to feature primarily native plants on the perimeters of the “active” areas of the Ranch, with a mix of native and adapted Mediterranean plants of low water requirements closer in. This allows for some special, gardenesque plantings in smaller areas where people can easily enjoy and experience beautiful plants up close.

Matt Kissman, Facilities Manager, had a thought to rearrange some of the existing plantings to realize this vision; coupled with our desire to improve the visual condition of the labyrinth area, it was a grand idea. I was enlisted to design a plan for the labyrinth area utilizing the existing roses along the entry driveways to create a rose garden. While the roses were beautiful along the driveways, most people only glimpsed them from their vehicles. The goal was to develop a lovely garden that showcases the roses and labyrinth, and provides a contemplative space where people can linger, “smell the roses,” and appreciate this formerly under-utilized part of the Ranch.

Thanks to Volunteers and Staff, most of the roses have now been transplanted! The next step in the process is to gradually fill in with companion plants that will promote the health and well-being of the roses, and further enhance the labyrinth experience.

Next time you are walking about the Ranch, I hope you will “seize the occasion” to visit this first phase of the rose garden!

Stop and smell the roses,
taste the nectar of sweet.
Peel back the petals,
tickle your feet...

-Hershe Moore



Our Caretaker Takes His Leave



Many Ranch guests know the friendly face of Cass Grimes, the Ranch Caretaker who has been greeting guests and helping them to feel at home away from home for the last nine years. Cass and his wife Jan Grimes came to live at the Ranch in July of 2010 after getting to know the Ranch well through visits with their church, St. John's, Ross.

Cass embodied Ranch hospitality as he helped guests get settled in their rooms and faithfully cared for the Ranch environs. He did just about everything, including making

announcements, leading hikes, saying grace before meals, gardening, leading prayers in the Chapel, and even changing flat tires. Last year, Cass decided it was time to retire and thoughtfully spoke with the Ranch leadership about a transition. He plans on spending more time with his five grandchildren, Ava, Lola, Jackson, Thomas and Jack.

Jan is a Human Resources consultant with her own business, Redwood Management Services, and has been helping the Ranch with personnel expertise since the 1990s. We are glad to say that Jan is not ready to retire yet and will continue to work with the Ranch and many of her other clients.

In early March, Cass and Jan left for a cruise and an extended trip to New Zealand. Ranch guests will miss them, Ranch staff will miss them, Ranch kids will miss them, and the local cats, dogs and chickens will miss them, too.



Members of the "Spring Sing Thing" strumming

Open Space Available

Do you belong to a book group, knitting circle, bike club or song circle? Are you associated with a nonprofit organization that could benefit from a retreat? We have midweek and some weekend space available for groups of all sizes. To inquire about open space, email Leda at: reservations@bishopsranch.org.

Upcoming Ranch Programs

Weekend Camp
Intergenerational
June 21-23, 2019

Generations Camp
Intergenerational
June 23-29, 2019

Family Camp
Intergenerational
June 30-July 6, 2019

BREAD Explorers
Entering 10th-12th grade & grads
July 7-13, 2019

READ Camp (day camp)
Entering 4th-6th grade
July 15-19, 2019

BREAD Adventurers
Entering 7th-9th grade
July 21-27, 2019

BREAD Discoverers
Entering 4th-6th grade
July 29-August 3, 2019

Writing in Ordinary Time
Week 1: August 4-9, 2019
Week 2: August 11-16, 2019

Ranch Service Day
August 10, 2019

Fall Hike
October 19, 2019

Spirit Guides and Guardian Angels
November 2-3, 2019

A Day of Yoga with Marie Hirsch
November 9, 2019

Song and Silence:
Sing the Sacred Chant of
Hildegard von Bingen
November 22-24, 2019

Silent Days in Advent
December 13-20, 2019

Wisdom of the Heart
December 20-22, 2019

Please visit the program page on our website for more information or to register: www.bishopsranch.org

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Coming Home

A newsletter about life at The Bishop's Ranch, a retreat and conference center for all ages.

Send correspondence and address corrections to:
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and saturated in the beauty of nature. The stunning chapel windows were donated and installed, the chairs (!) put in place (and rearranged a thousand times), a new altar, baptismal font, and lectern. And now we're dreaming and planning for an outdoor worship space as well.

I spent a year as program manager primarily preparing for our summer camps, and I learned a lot and met the most wonderful people. Working with our camp staff over the years has been a real gift to me. They are an amazing group of young adults who contribute to the world in such important ways. A project near and dear to my heart is READ Camp—the Ranch day camp for kids from our own neighborhood who ordinarily would never get a chance to come to camp. I'm grateful for the chance we've had to collaborate with the Healdsburg School District to make this camp a reality, and to the donors who have provided scholarships to the children—and even made it possible for us to have a Gaga pit!

The prayer resident ministry has brought wonderful people to the Ranch and we benefit not only from their faithful daily prayers, but also from their willingness to help out in countless other ways, and to be a caring presence to our staff and to the folks who come on retreat.

The mission of the Ranch has never been more important. In a time of so much fracture of community and devastation of creation, it is vital to have a place that nurtures individuals, families and communities, cares for their spiritual selves, and offers them a chance to renew their relationship with the natural world. The news we get tends to overwhelm us with negativity; we may forget that the grace of God

is at work, so often “under the radar.” The Ranch is a place to remember and experience that grace. And, it's where we can relax and have fun! So many of us are so stressed and tight, we've forgotten how to play—the Ranch offers a spaciousness where both rest and play are encouraged. “This is good!” to quote the great One.

What is next for me? That's the first question I am asked these days. I will do some traveling this summer, and I am feeling a call to work with my son Chris who is helping create a network of activists focused on the nexus of climate change and racism. I'm not at all sure where that will lead, and it seems important that I take some time and space to be a bit more still than I have been, a little rest perhaps and taking my ease, and see what may beckon. God is always on the edge of the new thing.

I close with this little poem by Lucille Clifton from her book *An Ordinary Woman*, which speaks to me and perhaps to you at this time.

The Lesson of the Falling Leaves

The leaves believe
such letting go is love
such love is faith
such faith is grace
such grace is god
i agree with the leaves

-Lucille Clifton



Pat and her granddaughter, Sawyer, at Generations Camp

One generation plants a tree... Another enjoys the shade

Plan for tomorrow and sustain the Ranch. Over one hundred people have created a lasting legacy of caring by remembering the Ranch in their will or estate plan. Their commitment has made them members of our Legacy Circle and they would welcome you to join them.

If you would like more information about being part of this ministry sustaining group, contact Jack Dowling, at 707.433.2440 x105 or visit www.bishopsranch.org/support/legacy.



Multiple generations enjoy Sunday chapel service

Double Your Gift, Double Your Impact – Annual Fund Challenge

Every gift to our Annual Fund has an impact on the hospitality ministry of the Ranch. This year we have received a \$40,000 challenge grant that is matching new donations and any increased donation amount. If you have missed a year or more and make a donation this year, that will be considered a new donation as well.

To date we have secured half the grant with \$21,025 in new and increased donations from 98 households. We have raised \$126,500 toward our \$300,000 goal.

Won't you join our group of faithful supporters?

[Donate Online](#)

Choose Your Impact With a Donation to the Partnership Fund

If you would like to direct how your donation dollars are spent, you can make a contribution to the Partnership Fund to underwrite pieces of the summer program or provide scholarships.

For example, you could provide snacks and lunch for one camper for a day or fund our camp swim instruction program. Maybe you would like to underwrite the cost of one camper to come to BREAD camp or feed all the camp staff for one day. You could even cover the cost of the Camp Staff Training Week.

Every donation to the Partnership Fund ensures that camp will be available to all those who want to attend, regardless of their ability to pay. Every donation is greatly appreciated.

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The Bishop's Ranch: My Refuge *by Connie Prim*



Arbor walk to Ranch House with wisteria in bloom, Spring 2019

Forty-five years ago in an old gymnasium in the heart of San Francisco I attended a Cursillo, an ecumenical retreat that is a small course in Christianity. During those three days I was seated one evening at dinner with a Franciscan nun. She and I talked about many things, but she kept coming back to The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg. I had never heard of it, even though I was an Episcopalian. She told me it was run by the Franciscan brothers out of San Francisco. They lived there and once a month had a day-long silent retreat. After she explained to me what a silent retreat is, I found myself very interested, especially because being silent for a day just sounded impossible. She even mentioned that at lunch you remained silent while eating. When I arrived home I soon looked up this mysterious place, made a call, and found myself there the next month for the silent retreat.

When I drove up the hill and saw the chapel and the beautiful main house I felt some of my fears leaving me. What a wonderful spot to spend a day in quiet. It was a life-changing experience for me and every month for many years I attended those silent retreats. Many of

the same people attended month after month and even though we never spoke a word, I felt I knew each one of them – sharing our spiritual journey needed no words. I loved exploring the gorgeous grounds, gazing out on the mountains, and sitting in front of a blazing fire in the main house. There was such a sense of peace that came over me the minute I stepped out of my car. There was always a morning meditation, noon day service, and time to speak with the retreat master if need be.

As time went on I found myself going up to the Ranch to spend a night – and once even had a week-long vacation there with my family. The brothers were still running the Ranch at that time. They had a big job and I think there were just eight of them.

Then just to top it off, on one of the trips I made up to the Ranch for a retreat, I met my husband. We have been married 38 years and we had our marriage blessed in the chapel on our 25th anniversary. It was a splendid place to have this blessing. Both of us feel deep ties to the Ranch.

Along the way the brothers departed and the Ranch was given over to Sean Swift to manage. Well, there have been many improvements to say the least! The Webb house, the stained glass windows in the chapel, the pool renovation, the Swing Pavilion, garden work, path work, acquiring more land, huge improvements to the main house sleeping area, the brothers' quarters turned into staff housing, renovation of the cabins down the hill, the fire pits, the outside Labyrinth, and so many more improvements I am not mentioning at all – accomplished by many hands from different church communities and friends of the Ranch. Of course there is now an entire staff running the Ranch.

Our granddaughter attended the Choir Camp a few times – a highlight in her young life. My brother brings his jazz choir to spend a night at the beginning of the school year – they love the experience.

My heart is really there; whenever I feel like the world is out of whack, I just close my eyes and think about the total peace that envelops The Bishop's Ranch – the stunning vistas and the welcoming feeling from each staff member, plus the feeling of God's presence – for sure my home away from home.

Looking Back - *Continued from page 1*

helping lead the songs with my bass guitar. It was during music that I learned a valuable lesson about camp and even life itself: you get out of it what you put into it.

Despite my love of the camp music sessions, the activity that in many ways defines BREAD Camp is small group time. Leading a small group is often the counselors' most difficult task, but it can also be the most impactful. The middle school and high school years are often challenging, and not having people to talk to only makes matters worse. Even for a kid like me, who wasn't dealing with anything especially difficult in my life, sitting and hearing new and old friends share their stories taught me a lot about listening. It also taught me that it's not just okay, but in fact necessary to be vulnerable sometimes, as sharing personal burdens with friends is the best way to build and solidify a supportive community. Last summer with my small group that had just graduated from high school, we laughed, cried and spent extra time together because the support that we felt for each other became almost addictive.

When Bryce Nelson, one of my first and best friends from camp, tragically passed away last spring, I was overwhelmed by memories from our time at camp together. I expected to see

some familiar faces at his service, but in no way expected camp friends to come from Southern California and even Oregon during finals week, but many did. We may not have spent much time together compared to his other friends from home, but the relationships that we built over the years through shared experiences at BREAD Camp were stronger and deeper than any others.

Back to my first year at camp, once I got home and had told my mom every last detail from the best week of my life, I was hit by what is now commonly referred to by campers as post-BREAD withdrawal. For those who have never been to BREAD Camp, it is somewhat comparable to the feeling of being taken out of the most relaxing spa you could imagine and thrown directly into the San Francisco Bay. You feel alone, helpless, and lost in an environment that lacks the exceptional friendship, love, and support that defines BREAD Camp.

The week after camp was always a difficult one, but it put into perspective just how incredible the previous week had been. Never before had I experienced and seen with my own eyes the bonding power of inclusiveness, and it almost seemed too good to be true at first. As the years went on, I got better at dealing with it, and realized that the only thing left to do was to try to bring the themes of BREAD Camp into the rest of my life. Not everyone I meet will be able to experience BREAD Camp, but everyone I meet can feel the love and support that it taught me. When I think about camp, I still remind myself of the wise words of a former counselor: don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. Looking back, I couldn't have a bigger smile on my face.

Help Us Get From Here to There



Two old Ranch trucks

We are highlighting a special need from our wish list. Over the years we have been grateful recipients of some used cars and trucks. Those vehicles have transported staff, guests and materials for many miles.

The time has come again to put out a call for donated vehicles. We currently have no vehicles appropriate for transporting guests, and at least two of our hard-working trucks are on their last legs (wheels).

If you have a vehicle that is in good condition that you are ready to part with, please think of us. A mini van would be especially useful, but a passenger car or truck would be great, too. Email Jack Dowling at jack@bishopsranch.org to let him know.

We have put the rest of our wish list on our website with links to items the Ranch staff has chosen to best serve their departments. Check it out here: <https://www.bishopsranch.org/support/wishlist>



The Bishop's Ranch

of the Episcopal Diocese of California

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Corn Lime Cookies Recipes from The Bishop's Ranch Kitchen

These cookies are requested regularly by returning groups and have become a Ranch favorite! The recipe came to us from a wonderful restaurant in Arcata, called Los Bagels. You will need about 3 large limes to make this recipe.

Cookie Dough:

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 ½ cups unbleached flour
- ¾ cup cornmeal
- 1 tablespoon lime zest
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon lime juice

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs and mix well. Combine the flour, cornmeal, lime zest, salt, and soda and add to the butter mixture. Add the lime juice and mix until all ingredients are thoroughly incorporated.

Using a large spoon (to give about 2 tablespoons of dough), scoop the dough and roll into balls. Using a glass, flatten each ball

of dough to 2 ½ inches in diameter. Placing a small piece of plastic wrap in between the dough and the glass will keep them from sticking.

Bake at 350 degrees until the cookies are just beginning to brown around the edges, about 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and cool. When cooled, make the glaze.

Lime Glaze:

- 1 ½ cups sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1/8 cup lime juice
- ½ teaspoon lime zest

Mix all ingredients in the top of a double boiler and heat, stirring occasionally, just until liquid. Keep the double boiler warm, but be careful not to overheat it or the glaze will turn to syrup. Remove from heat and brush the glaze on top of the cookies. Let cool and set before storing. These keep and freeze well.