

Sabbath Rest

Surprise!

Have you ever helped organize a surprise? A real surprise where the "victim" never saw it coming?

Have you been a "target" of a surprise? How did it make you feel? I am of course talking about a pleasant event, not something pranksters would come up with!

The ones making the arrangements and preparations of such events most often have just as much fun as the intended recipient. The more elaborate and even time consuming efforts heighten the anticipation, culminating in the SURPRISE! Parents do it to their children, friends to one another, co-workers to those around them.

Surprises are most often simply surprises, something we did not see coming, catching us completely off guard. Once the cover is taken off, we see how elaborate the preparations had been.

Now take it a step further. Picture a child that can barely wait for Daddy to come home from a business trip. Previous experiences indicated that something will be in his suitcase, a surprise. Or how about Mom coming back from the grocery store, what goodies will she have in the shopping bag? We don't know what the surprise will be, but there will be something, big, small, and unexpected, although the child does expect something. We adults, with our stoic demeanor, should become more like little children and express our joy like they do, and trust more simply (not simple minded, of course) as they do.

Wouldn't you like to see our Heavenly Father's eyes when He watches us react to a surprise that He has orchestrated? A miracle, or an answer to a prayer we thought would go unanswered?

As we invite our Heavenly Father to lead and guide us, as we learn to trust Him more and more, we need to expectantly wait for His answers, His miracles and especially His surprises! Sometimes preparations take a bit longer than we like, until all is in place. No matter what, His answers will come.

In the gospel according to Matthew, Jesus says: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you

will find; knock, and will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Join us in prayer as we ask for His provisions for Shepherd's Refuge, as we seek Him for guidance to make more space available, and especially for wisdom and strength when we serve those He sends our way.

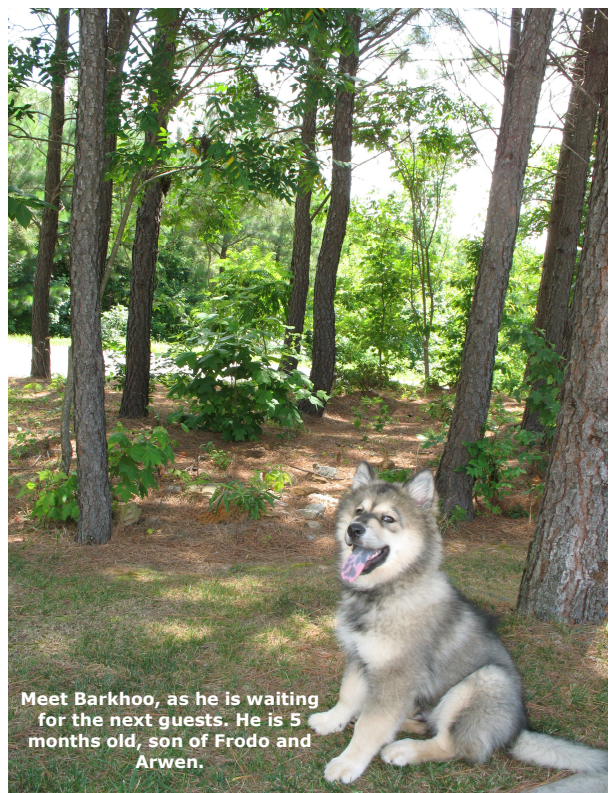
Please let those in ministry know to call us soon with their reservation requests, even if it is for next year! But wait, if someone you know who could catch the vision of Shepherd's Refuge just came to your mind. Please share this newsletter with them, and ask them to join in support of this mission to strengthen those in ministry, their congregations, and communities.

Inside this issue:

- ◆ Surprise!
- ◆ Progress Report
- ◆ Our Newsletter

Headlines

We have reached Capacity!



Meet Barkhoo, as he is waiting for the next guests. He is 5 months old, son of Frodo and Arwen.



**SHEPHERD'S REFUGE - SELAH
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A non-profit ministry
recognized as a 501 (c) 3
organization.

Caring for those who care.

Words of Wisdom

It is not what we EAT but
what we Digest that
makes us STRONG.

Not what we GAIN but
what we SAVE that
makes us RICH.

Not what we read but
what we REMEMBER that
makes us LEARNED.

Not what we PROFESS
but what we PRACTICE
that makes us
CHRISTIANS.

The purpose of Shepherd's Refuge is:
To strengthen His church in fulfilling its Great Commission
by caring for its leadership!

Isaiah 40:29-31

"He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait upon the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

Progress Report

- ◇ The First Half of this year has seen more than double the guest/nights over any previous year's numbers! The rest of the year has only a few spots left! Capacity has been reached and the need for a time of rest is ever increasing.
- ◇ New member of the Board of Directors, Curt Howard, has joined us for the first meeting in July, and brings much enthusiasm and experience with him.
- ◇ A Board of Advisors is being assembled to help us move to the next level, which will be creating more capacity by completing the first cabin.
- ◇ The results of our link with "GoodSearch" and "GoodShop" have been very positive, and we thank all who can participate. See how it works at www.goodsearch.com!
- ◇ Our first ever on-line survey of our previous guests was sent out beginning of August. Their first hand experience will be very valuable to enhance our services. We will continue to ask for their feedback on-site as well.
- ◇ We praise the Lord for His faithfulness in providing operational funds through the rest of the year.

We are on the Web:
www.shepherdsrefuge.org



Variety of breads, made by Sandy, for our guests.

Our Newsletter

The newsletter you are just reading is going out in print form to many friends using the so-called snail mail system. Others are reading it online, either receiving it by email, or then looking at it through our website, where we also make all the back copies available. The question comes up from time to time which way is the best and most effective way to offer you our Quarterly Newsletter. We would of course like to save the money spent on postage, but then we leave out those who prefer holding the letter in their hands, passing it around in the family or sharing it with friends, and we would also miss out on our friends who choose not to have a computer. Others tell us that sending it by email is just fine with them, they plan to read it on-line or print it out.

We would love to hear from you, the readers, what your preferred way of receiving the Newsletter is. Call us, email us or send us a note to let us know. As always, should you decide to opt out of our mailing list, we will gladly comply with your request.

Greetings in the name of the One we love to serve most, our Lord Jesus Christ.



The rains have come and the harvest is bountiful!