



"Everything was wonderful. We feel refreshed in body and encouraged in the Lord. Please thank the prayer warriors, the board and supporters for us. We have experienced the Lord here. This is a piece of heaven to us."

**- Pastor Brent and Cindy Farmer
Hillside Ave Church of God, Springfield, OH**

JUNE 2021 NEWS

LOOKING BACK SO THAT WE CAN LOOK FORWARD!

Dear Friends and Partners of Shepherd's Refuge,

Being amazed is not even close to the right expression of how we are as we look back over the past two years. "For I am the LORD, I do not change!" Whatever situations we find ourselves in, He continues to be faithful and trustworthy.

This gives us the confidence to move forward and stay the course He leads us in, even when we get anxious about "our" timetable. **His schedule is so much better than ours!**

We've missed keeping in touch with you and we aim to do better in the coming months. Many of you have asked for an update about Shalom Cabin. Please see enclosed note on the **construction status**. Also, please **join us in prayer** for a strategic planning and fundraising development process the board is currently undergoing. We are **discerning future growth strategies** to scale our ministry impact through building and leadership expansion. We look forward to sharing more details soon!

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support! You make it possible for us to serve ministry leaders in their time of need at no charge. **We are grateful.**

Ruedi & Sandy, Hosts

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

- Matthew 11:28-29



Shepherd's Refuge is a non-profit organization that enables front line servants of the Lord to get refreshed and restored in their relationship with the Heavenly Father in order to return as leaders to their flock. Your support allows us to offer retreats at no cost to pastors and front line ministry workers. *Thank you for praying and giving generously.*



SHALOM CABIN UPDATE

ROB JONES, MEMBER OF THE BOARD

All of us have seen the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic upon our country and the world. Ministries around the world have been carefully navigating through these challenging times and Shepherds Refuge is no exception. We have been raising funds for the construction of our next cabin and were prepared to begin the construction process when suddenly Covid-19 brought those efforts to a halt.

Stewardship of the resources that we have been provided is an important part of our ministry. So, we have hit the pause button on construction of the next cabin until prices stabilize within the construction industry. A recent article posted on the website for the NAHB (National Association of Home Builders) stated the following: "Lumber prices have skyrocketed more than 180% since last spring. This price spike has caused the price of an average new single-family home to increase by more than \$24,000 since April 17, 2020. NAHB is working with government officials to develop solutions to these sharp price increases which threaten housing affordability across the nation. (Article titled Framing Lumber Prices at www.nahb.org)

Slowdowns in mining, transportation and manufacturing have affected industries and products across the country. As the supply channels tighten, and inventories are depleted, materials are costing more for the manufacturers and prices are going to increase for consumers. COVID-19 restrictions have hampering sawmills, while quarantined Americans pursued home renovations or do-it-yourself projects thus increasing the demand for materials. Matters have been made worse by low interest rates and tight existing home inventory which has caused new home builders to ramp up production. The demand for new homes is so high that even during an economic crisis we hit a 14-year high in new housing starts in December.

So what are we going to do? While we are focusing on infrastructure and site work in preparation for construction of the next cabin, we are also using this time wisely to conduct site planning for future additional cabins, thus reducing our overall expenses. **Stewardship of the resources provided by our partners is essential.** Facing the challenges of this season means careful and thoughtful consideration of how to effectively achieve our objective.

We are grateful for all that you have done and that you continue to stand with us as we move forward advancing the work of supporting pastors and ministry leadership.



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Give online: www.shepherdsrefuge.org

"We appreciated the way you both flowed in and out of our lives during our time here. You interacted with us and gave us space at the same time. There is truly an anointing for "rest" and "refreshing" upon this place. The ability to hear from God away from the "hustle and bustle" is priceless! - Pastor Greg and Pam Rogers, Tuscaloosa Life Church, Tuscaloosa, AL