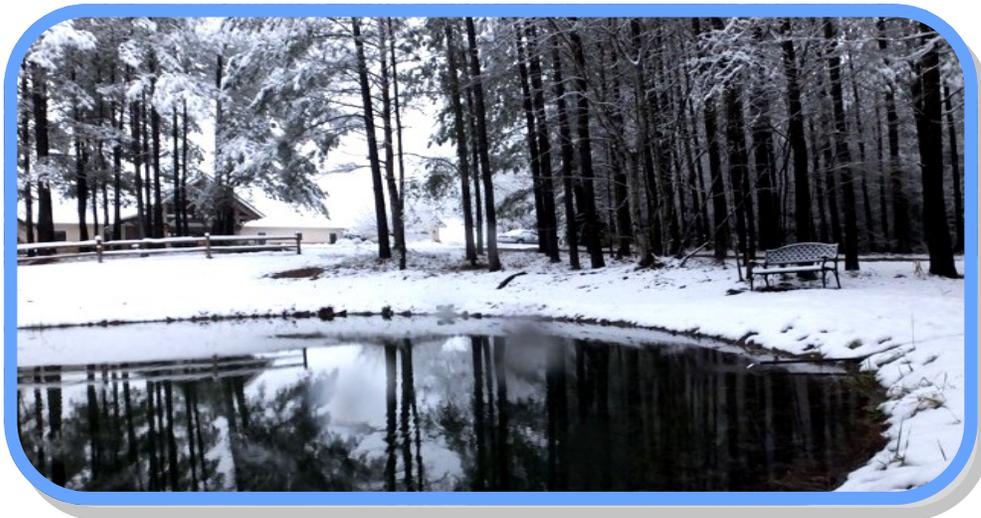


Sabbath Rest

Seasons

Inside this issue:

- ◆ Seasons
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- ◆ What is on their hearts?



YES, we do get snow at Shepherd's Refuge! More than one of our guests has wished to be "snowed-in" while here. A few times that has happened, at least for 24 hours. The driveway is steep, long and can occasionally ice up, making it impossible to use.

So, what do we do? As we say here in the South, we just "hunker down" and make the best of this seasonal challenge. This past December, it happened! Our guests took the opportunity to build a snowman with twigs for arms, and small rocks for eyes. However, a short period of direct sunshine and some strong gusts of wind knocked the little man over, only to be rebuilt once more!

What are your seasons of life?

All of us have seasonal challenges! Not talking about the weather, although that can have an impact as well, but rather the ones that affect our daily routines. We have gone through life threatening illnesses, accidents that restrict mobility, even being "under the weather" with colds and aching muscles. But then there are those situations when plans have to be changed because an elderly parent needs to be taken care of, or a child is rebellious, or finances are at an impasse.

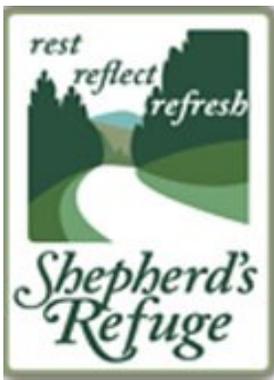
Even when we are in the midst of these situations, we need to remember that while we are here on this planet we will have tribulations, until our address changes!

The Lord promises us to be with us THROUGH those valleys we encounter. All the way to the other side!

A time of rest, seclusion, intensive and intentional fellowship with HIM brings healing and new perspectives. No better place than here at Shepherd's Refuge!



The basis for establishing ECFA and developing *Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship*[™] is stated clearly by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:21 (NIV):
" For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."



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A non-profit ministry
recognized as a 501 (c) 3
organization.

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

Remember:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;

A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

There is always that next Season!

Stacey has an app that counts down to Spring, it can also display how many more days, hours, minutes and even seconds until the college football season starts up again! What season are we waiting for? Is it a sports event, a wedding, children to grow up, retirement, a new assignment, no "battle-axes" in the congregation, a move to another church, a different board of elders/directors? Whatever we are looking forward to, is it because of current trials? The daffodils, hyacinths and tulips announce the beginning of Spring. Let's look at what is popping up, deal with the present, use what is on hand and prepare for the other side of the valley. There is always that next season. It will come!



What is on their Hearts?

These are some of the prayer requests from our guests:

- ⇒ "We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom and direction for the future ..."
- ⇒ "Please pray for true wisdom and spiritual insight to know how to best serve and shepherd our world-wide missionary staff."
- ⇒ "That the Lord would reorient our expectations to be biblical and pure."
- ⇒ "Pray for a more permanent facility that would better meet our needs, especially for our growing children's ministry!"
- ⇒ "Health issues, diagnosed with bladder cancer ..."
- ⇒ "For God's guidance for our future work for His Kingdom. And ability to reach more people around us who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. Only God can heal them."
- ⇒ "I pray personally that my family and myself would totally sense God's presence and will, and we would continue to grow closer together."
- ⇒ "For my wife and I that God would give us wisdom, grace and patience to parent (lead, guide and be an example) to our 3 children."

