

# Coming Home

News from The Bishop's Ranch

Fall 2010

From the Ranch Chaplain

## Seeking Sabbath

*Rev. Pat Moore delivered this keynote address during the Acorn Society Annual Forum in June.*

When I mention that I work at The Bishop's Ranch, people who have been here start talking to me about the place, how beautiful it is; they talk about the camps they've attended, the retreats, the hikes they've taken on the trails, the great food, the swimming pool, the Ranch House, the Pavilion. The Ranch is a place. A special place.

And, so it is. But the Ranch is also a time. A special time. During the past months we have reinstated a practice that has a long history here: the regular offering of morning and evening prayer, as well as our Sunday Eucharist. You might wonder, why offer regular silence and prayer in our chapel? What difference does that make, when so many groups who come here have their own worship, and others are not religiously inclined? Attendance at these offices is not noteworthy. Why are we called to this?



I suspect you've heard about clergy burnout—exhaustion from just too much work and responsibility. Maybe you've seen that in folks you know. I've walked that path myself and can remember what it was like to be completely exhausted and operating on a wish and a prayer. Clergy exhaustion is real, but it isn't a disease limited to clerical types. The truth is that when I go about my ordinary days, and meet ordinary folks, and I say, "Hi, how are you?" typical responses I get are: "Tired. I don't know whether I'm coming or going," "I'm exhausted," "Overwhelmed." These are people whose work lives and family lives are filled with stress and responsibilities that don't seem to end. Maybe you know these folks too, some of them probably live in your neighborhood, maybe even in your homes, or perhaps even in your skin. Young adults I know work long hours; if they have

kids, their lives tend to be incredibly complex. Even relaxation in America seems to have an air of stress to it. Things are always organized. I see people on vacation rushing from one place to the next, from one activity to the next. We don't seem to know how to play any more. Noise, traffic, technology. You know the scene.

Yesterday I was reading yet another study about how the web is actually affecting our brains. How we don't read like we used to, and we don't think like we used to. We skim, and multi-task. We don't take time to reflect. We race to the next bit of information. This leads to snap judgments and decisions, too. (I must confess, I was skimming this article on my phone....so I can't give you the full report!)

My own experience of this kind of living is that when I'm in it I'm mostly in my head, detached from the rest of my body (except when I notice it complaining). I'm thinking about the next thing on the list that needs doing, calculating how soon I can get there, whether I can stop and take care of an errand on the way. I'm rarely present to the here and now.

What kind of world is this? How did it get to be this way? How have I let myself lose the capacity to be present? How is it that we get caught up in the pace of life, with its countless tasks, and shoulds, and pressures, and responsibilities, and musts? How is it that we who once were citizens of this country are now consumers? And, whatever happened to being a child of God? How is it that so many of us actually feel guilty when we sit and do nothing--even for a moment or two? We worry that life won't go on without us doing our part. Our sense of who we are might be lost if we aren't doing what we do.

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Our faith is far more interested in who we are and who God is, than it is in what we do. Our tradition offers us an option for fullness of life, a way to live fully present to what is. Fully and humanly present in our bodies. In fact, our tradition enjoins us to live differently, actually commands us, if you are into that kind of thing (few of us are these days). I'm talking about Sabbath. That seventh day of creation when God completed God's initial creating by resting. The Sabbath is the culmination of the creation story, not the post script.

Almost all of the folks who come to the Ranch, whether they know it or not, come seeking Sabbath. Of course, not the rigid, somber, blue-law kind of Sabbath that some of us remember, or read about once. No, I'm talking Biblical Sabbath. I'm talking rest, and joy, and saying no. I'm talking resting in the arms of God. I'm talking embodied. Living in our bodies. Loving our bodies. Living in creation. Loving creation. Entrusting ourselves to God's ongoing creativity at work. Living into God. Loving God. Giving thanks for the sheer gift of life. I'm talking sleep, relationship. Remembering who we are. I'm talking freedom. Stillness. Listening. Reflecting. Simply being.

We mostly think of the Ranch as a place. Not the only place. A special place, a beautiful place, a welcoming place. But, equally the Ranch is a time. Sabbath time. Not the only Sabbath time. But a special, beautiful, welcoming Sabbath time. A time when overly busy, burned out, stressed out, desensitized, over-responsibilized folks can come away into Sabbath. To remember who God is and who they are.

Sabbath is a gift. And Sabbath is not only a gift for our bodies and minds and emotions, but at the heart of it, a spiritual gift. A godly gift. Ours for the taking. For the simple accepting of it.

Sabbath can be found anywhere. You can catch a bit of it here and there each day. You can set aside a weekly time to truly honor the Sabbath, and you can make room for it in your daily living. It's a question of saying yes to the gift. Not always easy because that yes requires saying no to our culture. We can begin with little nos perhaps, and work up to the bigger ones.

The creation story [Genesis 1.1-2.3] culminates in the Sabbath. Creation is good. God sees it. And declares it good. The goodness of creation is central to Sabbath. For that is what we entrust ourselves to, when we stop and honor the time.

The first sanctification of anything in the Bible is the sanctification of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is the first thing made holy. The root of the word hallow or sanctify is like betrothed. To sanctify is to betroth yourself to the Sabbath. Betroth yourself to the time of rest. Think about that. Betrothed to rest.

Part of creation is the resting. The dormancy. There is a rhythm to life. You and I know this. Yet it is sometimes hard to honor it. Sometimes we don't slow down to rest until there is a crisis. Or we get sick. Have you heard people say that they are actually relieved to be sick? They get a break that way. Then they stop and slow down. Only then.

Sabbath is security. There's a letting go, resting and entrusting ourselves to God's ongoing creativity. Exodus 20:8-1: We are reminded again that God is creator. Creation is good. I can let go of the musts. The universe does not depend on my work. Take a breath. Let God. Remember who God is. Creator. Let time slow.

Sabbath is freedom: Deuteronomy 5:12-15 offers a different slant on Sabbath. It grounds the Sabbath in freedom. God as freedom-giver. God brought us out from slavery. We need to remember that, too. By letting go we entrust ourselves to God rather than the system. We begin to be set free. No longer brick-makers. Or, in our culture, perhaps, brick-consumers.

Sabbath is silence and stillness. Being present to the God within. Dare to enter the depths of self. Some people come to the Ranch; they weep. We have lots to weep about, don't we? They may be afraid. Sometimes they're simply afraid of entering the silence within, that touches on the silence of God. They're afraid they won't know who they are if they slow down. Sabbath can be scary that way.

Sabbath is spaciousness. Room to play, room even to occupy our bodies. Room to laugh deeply, to marvel, to



## Sabbath from page 2

wonder, to awe. Awe-ing is a splendid part of Sabbath-keeping.

In the church, we've succumbed in so many ways to the pace of our culture. We ask people to give of their time for meetings, committees, whatever. We begin to think that our faith is like everything else, doing, doing, doing. In large part we've forgotten how often Jesus offered rest (Matthew 6:28-29, and Matthew 11:28-29). That Sabbath was made for us, and makes us human. The Ranch hasn't forgotten.

And when people come here, they may be bone-tired, and spiritually longing. Bereft, some of them. So we offer them place, and time. Both are vital.

The heart of Sabbath time is God. That's why it is essential that we celebrate God-- that we invite folks into the center. Through daily worship, through retreats and quiet days, through Sunday Eucharist, and spiritual conversation. We're not in the business of offering vacations. We're offering Sabbath.

## Three Amigos Move On



*Nik, Alex and Saul*

Alex and Saul Lopez, and Nik Yull all started as dishwashers in our kitchen when they were in high school. Alex and Saul were living next door at the dairy farm and heard about the job openings, and Saul told his good friend Nik.

Each brought a different talent and personality to the job and each quickly began to pick up new skills in the kitchen. They learned how to make dressings, then gained knife skills by prepping lots of vegetables. As their skills increased, they were promoted to prep-cooks and could always be counted on to support the lead cooks on a shift.

Their skills increased to the point where they were sometimes called on to lead a shift themselves.

All the while, they were finishing high school and then taking community college courses.

At the end the summer they left the Ranch to continue their college education—Alex and Saul to Fresno State, and Nik to central Oregon. We will miss their fun spirit and of course the cooking skills they learned in our kitchen.

## Welcome New Staff Members

We have two new full-time staff members who play a prominent role in providing the very best hospitality to our guests. Jack "Cass" Grimes is our new Residential Caretaker, and Mark Fassett is a new face in the office as Administrative Assistant.

Cass and his wife Jan moved to the Ranch in July from Marin county, where they are members of St. John's in Ross. Cass brings skills from his years as a professional gardener as well as an innkeeper, which he and Jan did together.

Mark started here in July and is working with Shannon Reilly, newly promoted to Conference Coordinator, to partner with groups from the time they make a reservation through to their arrival at the Ranch. Mark lives in Sebastopol with his wife and two daughters, and often makes the 30 mile round trip by bicycle.



*Cass and Mark*



*Travis douses a fire*

In addition to Cass and Mark, we have several new part-time employees. Travis Shoemaker has joined the Maintenance staff and brings great enthusiasm and great knowledge of fire safety. Recently he skillfully led the staff in a fire extinguisher training.

In the kitchen we brought on four new employees to replace Nik, Alex and Saul. Two of our neighbors, Hannah Bucher and Hannah Klisura were hired as dishwashers and Melinda Mohr and Sam Ojebola as prep cooks.

All these talented new people add a great deal to our guests' experience at the Ranch.

## Acorn Forum Held at The Ranch

On the weekend of June 28, 2010 over 70 people gathered for the third annual forum of the Ranch Acorn Society. Many arrived on Friday night, including Bishop Marc and Sheila Andrus, and joined in a lovely hymn sing with musician and composer Christopher Putnam. On Saturday morning, members of the Ranch staff led interesting and lively tours of the blacksmith workshop, the art center, and the worm bin composting. The annual forum began with an address by The Rev. Pat Moore, who reminded us that The Bishop's Ranch is a place and time of Sabbath, while highlighting the importance of Sabbath in our lives. Sean Swift and Nigel Heath updated us on Ranch accomplishments and challenges, and Julia McCray-Goldsmith led a workshop on personal story as public narrative. Richard Schaper facilitated a group discussion on launching a legacy circle for the Ranch, and several people shared stories of their family's planned gifts.

It was a perfect, sunny, but not-too-hot summer day, and the social hour on the veranda was delightful. Dinner was a delicious flank steak, with chard tart for our vegetarians. Both were complimented by a Heritage Vine Zinfandel wine, donated by the Nachbar family of our local Acorn Winery. A beautiful Taizé service in the Chapel brought the day's activities to a close. Sunday morning, those guests remaining celebrated the Eucharist in St. George's Chapel and joined in the blessing of three stained glass windows created by artist Irmi Steding as well as a new thurible stand. The latter was made by Doug Wade and Jack Dowling in our blacksmith shop. The three stained glass window dedications included the "flowers, herbs and birds" window sponsored by Deborah Carlton, as well as the windows behind the altar sponsored by the Markell family. Several hearty souls hiked down to Gina's Orchard and saw the new gate and bridge.



*Acorn Society and board members pause for a photo.*



*Mark Farmer and Sean Swift at the afternoon reception.*



*Jack Dowling demonstrates blacksmithing techniques while Sheila Andrus tries her hand at worm composting.*

Thanks to all who attended the forum and to those who worked to make it a success. The next forum date is set for July 30, 2011 and plans are underway to make it a meaningful and fun-filled event for all.

The Acorn Society, with the Board of Directors, has become a central part of the on-going advancement of The Bishop's Ranch. They support, inform others in the Diocese about, and help care for The Bishop's Ranch. For more information about the Acorn Society, contact Sarah McGowan at [sarah@bishopsranch.org](mailto:sarah@bishopsranch.org) or 707-433-2440 x105.

*"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." Ralph W. Emerson*

Did you see God this week?  
Her cool gentle fog  
A morning veil of mist and perfume—  
Angels swinging her thurifer from on High,  
That we might rise to soft grey sky?

Did you hear God this week?  
The cows at twilight  
Lulling the Phos Hilaron?  
Or the bats at dusk  
chattering under the Ranch House eaves  
Making a fuss and  
Breaking the Greater Silence until,  
I was forced to shut my window—  
Mumbling under my breath—Quiet Please!  
Did your ears catch the coyotes at two a.m.—  
Calling to each other—"Amen," "Amen,"  
Long before dawn—in antiphon?

Did you feel God dancing here—  
Junco splashing in the fountain,  
Bay trees swaying on the mountain?  
Some days, She wore pink shoes and blonde hair,  
And could not stand still even on a dare—  
Her delight and pleasure spilling forth everywhere,  
Masquerading as Clare.  
Did you find God this week?  
Or better the question phrased—  
Did she find you in these quiet days?  
She was here—and goes with us now,  
Wherever we go, Seattle, Singapore, Reno—  
She greets us at every portal of the heart.

And so my friends—  
Farewell, Farewell—  
The week has slipped into God's hands,  
And we must away—  
Into the Lesser and Greater Silences  
Of Ordinary Day.

*Written at The Bishop's Ranch on the last morning of the Benedictine Experience, Proper 11 Sunday, 2010.*

## Funding the Ranch Ministry: The Annual Fund and a Matching Grant Opportunity

Over 400 children, teens and young adults from all over the Bay Area make pilgrimages to the Ranch in the summer. Some have never seen cows grazing in the pasture; some have never had the experience of a retreat, and most leave the Ranch relaxed and renewed after a number of days in community together. The Ranch plays a role in the life story, and the Sabbath story, of over 7,000 people each year.

There are many subtle ways the Ranch may touch a guest's heart: a good meal shared with friends; a meeting where people reached an epiphany; or an encounter with bird song. Removing the dust of everyday life from the soul is a powerful catalyst for change. After a weekend at the Ranch, families feel an intimacy with their church communities that comes from eating, worshipping, sharing stories and playing together in a beautiful, relaxed setting. The Ranch serves parish retreats, summer camps, Benedictine experiences, watershed education programs, silent retreats, school groups, nonprofit groups, volunteer projects, and personal retreats. An outstanding location and climate, delicious and healthy meals, clean and comfortable meeting and sleeping accommodations and a low-key staff presence allow guests to relax and enter into the life of the place. The Ranch belongs to all visitors, and its ministry touches each person in a different way.

We are preparing for another year of providing this unique natural setting where renewal of spirit, mind and body can occur in a way that fosters individual growth and strengthens community.

### Matching Grant Opportunity

There is an exciting matching grant opportunity for the Partnership Fund. This fund was established in 1993 to make the benefits of a Ranch visit open to all, regardless of financial means. Since then, thousands of people have used the fund to participate in a retreat at the Ranch. The emphasis is on ensuring that children under 18 are able to attend events at the Ranch --- either accompanying their parents or for special events for children and youth.

The Maria Kip Orphanage Foundation has offered a \$5,000 matching grant to the Ranch Partnership Fund if an additional \$5,000 is raised for scholarships. This dollar-for-dollar match doubles the value of your gift to the Partnership Fund. A gift or pledge now will help us reach this goal.

Please support this special place through a gift to the Partnership Fund or the Annual Fund to strengthen our ministry.

### 2010 Annual Fund

Each year, there is an opportunity for you to help with a critical project at the Ranch: the Annual Fund. Gifts to the Annual Fund are an indispensable part of the operations budget and the continued success of Ranch ministry. The Ranch is a totally self-supporting institution of the Diocese of California. We intentionally keep fees low in order to make the benefits of the Ranch available to as many as possible; therefore, guest fees do not cover the entire cost of a person's experience at the Ranch. Donor support is essential in order to cover the day-to-day operations of the Ranch. The Annual Fund has a direct and immediate impact on the quality of a guest's visit. We hope every

member of The Bishop's Ranch community will make it a philanthropic priority. Please give at a level that is meaningful for you.

Building strong roots for strong growth at the Ranch with a gift to the Annual Fund means that the Ranch remains a place of rest, relaxation and refreshment for all who visit. Our goal this year is to raise \$140,000 from 350 donors to balance the operations budget. To date, we are on our way to our goal with \$120,200 raised from 269 supporters. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation today to either the Partnership Fund or the Annual Fund.

Contributors to the 2010 Annual Fund whose gifts or pledge payments are received by December 31, 2010 are listed by giving group in the Annual Fund Report which will be published after January 1, 2011.

*Scenes from the Ranch ministry: children play on the tree swing at the Refectory, late afternoon social time with the Seniors of Grace, hikers take a break along the trails a group meeting at Webb Lodge, enjoying lunch during clergy conference.*



**Donate Now**

## From Food to Flowers – Recycling Food Scraps at The Bishop’s Ranch

### A Worm Bin System

In November 2009, The Bishop’s Ranch initiated a food scrap composting effort with some grant funds from The Compost Club, a local nonprofit founded by our maintenance staff worker Rick Kaye. A worm bin system consisting of six bins was built to receive 80-120 lbs. of vegetative food scraps generated each week at the Ranch. The food scraps are generated during the preparation of meals. Bags of shredded paper from the office are also included. About 6 yards of compost are generated in one year in this system. In addition, compost teas are brewed and added to our potted plants and tree nursery starts.



*Rick Kaye at the worm bins*

### Benefits for the Ranch

The worm bin compost system reduces the environmental footprint of The Bishop’s Ranch by diverting nearly three tons of waste from the landfill each year. Our worm bins help convert waste products to a resource, providing compost for our landscaping needs. Worm bins are considered a “cold composting” or “hybrid composting” process.

The promotion of our worm bin system to the larger community has produced added benefits. The Ranch system has inspired both a K-8 Charter School and a Sonoma county detention facility to replicate our model of design and construction. The Ranch has also sold nearly \$175 in worms and compost to interested parties.

### Looking Toward the Future

With the success of the current worm bin system, the maintenance staff has identified additional ways to reduce our waste stream, reduce the cost of garbage hauling, and model sustainability.

Composting efforts at the Ranch include a “hot composting” area where plate leftovers are combined with shredded cardboard, woody landscape cuttings, grass clippings, cow manure, and food scraps generated by visiting groups. Hot composting aims to achieve a heat range between 135-160°F during the initial phase of composting. This provides the heat needed to kill pathogens that may be found in post-consumer food scraps, weed seeds, and suppresses diseased landscape material.

With both composting systems in place, the Ranch can expect to lower its garbage bill, reduce the number of agricultural burns required for our landscape waste, produce high quality compost for our landscape needs, and generate compost for a future effort to grow more food for the Ranch kitchen. A portion of our compost and worms will be sold, with funds applied to the maintenance of the system and related education.

We are beginning to research the potential of an additional form of composting for the Ranch: Anaerobic Biodigestion. This process deprives oxygen to the material to be composted. Methane gas is generated but captured. It can be used as a cooking fuel. Since propane is a high operational cost for the retreat center, there may be some potential to develop this technique for both environmental and economic benefits.

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## Volunteer for Bluebirds

One of our co-occupants at the Ranch is the delightful western bluebird, *Sialia mexicana*. These small thrushes startle visitors with the intense azure color they display and their hard-working lifestyle, especially in late winter and spring. They nest in tree cavities, such as old woodpecker holes, but due to a variety of reasons, including the introduction of European starlings, there are not enough suitable homes for these birds to go around. The Ranch has installed many nesting boxes to provide more places for bluebirds to lay eggs and rear their young. Many guests have enjoyed watching the birds come and go at the boxes near the Swing Pavilion and the Refectory.



The nesting boxes should be checked three or four times each year to make sure they remain in good condition to provide suitable homes. Maggie Ross did a wonderful job taking care of the boxes in 2010 (thank you, Maggie!). We are looking for a volunteer or two to monitor the boxes in 2011. Necessary tasks include cleaning out the boxes during the wintertime, making note of needed repairs or making the repairs, and monitoring the boxes once or twice during the nesting season. No particular skills are necessary, just a love of birds and the outdoors and the ability to navigate the Ranch trails. Comfort with small tools such as a screwdriver would be handy. If you are interested, please contact Sean Swift at [sean@bishopsranch.org](mailto:sean@bishopsranch.org).

## Chapel of St. George Windows

Ranch guests have found new inspiration in the windows in the Chapel of St. George. Following the theme of the Canticle of the Sun, the song-prayer by St. Francis of Assisi, new windows on the west wall celebrate how Water, Fire, and Peace constantly praise God through their very nature and also deepen our appreciation of the Ranch environs.

The Sister Water window remembers Phoebe Pummill and was sponsored by Joe and Doris Pummill. The Brother Fire window is in memory of Kip Turnquist and Michael Ulander and was sponsored by Tom Leffler. The Peace window is dedicated to all Peacemakers and was also sponsored by the Pummills.

The beautiful windows were designed and constructed by stained glass artist Irmi Steding ([www.irmiglass.com](http://www.irmiglass.com)). Irmi has also constructed a stunning window near the Chapel entrance honoring how we praise God through music. This window was sponsored by Jim and Bente Carter.

We are very grateful to all of the generous sponsors. Anyone interested in helping to complete the windows in the Chapel has an opportunity to donate to the Diocesan Window. About \$1,700 of the \$10,000 needed has been raised toward this window which will honor the long history of the Diocese at the Ranch.



*Above: the medallions from the Peace and Brother Fire windows; Below: Rev. Jim Brown incenses the Flowers, Herbs and Birds window during its dedication, the music window*



## Youth Volunteers

Members of the St. James, San Francisco youth group came to the Ranch for a week this summer to work, and they worked hard. Their main project was to install two picnic tables at the top of the Lookout Loop trail. The tables had to be disassembled, carried a quarter mile up the hill and reassembled. It was not an easy job, but it is a great gift to all of us who use the trails.



*left: ground being leveled  
for picnic table installation  
below: working with the  
compost pile*



## Bishop's Ranch Recognized

In May 2010, Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease (WORLD) presented The Bishop's Ranch with a Certificate of Appreciation, "in recognition of your commitment and support to improve the health and well-being of HIV-positive women." The Ranch has supported WORLD retreats over the past 15 years.

From "*the abundant table* - Recipes from The Bishop's Ranch Kitchen"

## HERBED *biscuits*

*We serve these delicious biscuits regularly for breakfast with scrambled eggs, fresh salsa and pinto beans. Of course they are equally good at dinner with a bowl of stew. If you want the tops darker, you can brush the biscuits with heavy cream or melted butter before baking.*

2 cups unbleached flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda

2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley  
2 tablespoons chopped green onions or chives  
5 tablespoons unsalted butter, cold and cut into  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pieces

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup plus 2 tablespoons buttermilk.

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt, and baking soda into a large bowl. Mix in the chopped parsley and the green onions. Add the butter to the dry ingredients and mix with a pastry blender until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Make a well in the center and pour in the buttermilk. With your hand or a wooden spoon, blend the dough just until combined. It will be sticky.

Turn the dough out onto a floured work surface. Wash and dry your hands and flour them. Gently knead or fold the dough back on itself just until dough feels smooth, about 6 times. Pat out the dough to  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thickness. Dip a 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch biscuit cutter into flour and cut out the biscuits, lightly patting the scraps together and then cutting again. Place the biscuits at least 1 inch apart on a parchment lined baking sheet. Bake until golden brown, rotating if necessary, for about 10 minutes.

MAKES 10 BISCUITS

*Click Here* ➔

For more great recipes, get a copy of  
*the abundant table*  
at [www.bishopsranch.org/cookbook.html](http://www.bishopsranch.org/cookbook.html)

## Retreats & Quiet Days at The Bishop's Ranch

### If War is Not the Answer, What is?

*Wrestling with the Call to Integral Nonviolence*

Friday, November 12 to

Sunday, November 14, 2010

While many people of faith regard violence and war as contrary to their moral convictions, most of us struggle to articulate and manifest the nonviolent alternative to which we feel called. At this retreat we'll use Gandhi's teaching to explore the meaning and relevance of nonviolence in relation to our faith, our behavior, and our hopes for a better world.

**Retreat Leader:** Chris Moore-Backman



### Pregnant with Possibility: Poetry, Prayer and Mandalas

*Exploring the Sacred Circle*

Friday, December 3 to

Sunday, December 5, 2010



Advent is a time of sacred circle when we prepare to welcome the gift of new life. We'll enter this sacred time through the reading of poetry and the making of mandalas; we will worship in chant, prayer and silence. We'll consider how the Spirit spirals through the circles of our own lives.

You don't need to be an artist or a poet to explore the spirit in the visual, the spoken, and the unspoken.

**Retreat Leaders:** Lisa Thorpe, Ranch Resident Artist and Rev. Patricia Moore, Chaplain.

### Silent Days in Advent

Friday, December 10 to

Friday, December 17, 2010

The Bishop's Ranch has set aside the week to observe Advent in silence. This is an individual, self-directed retreat. The silent time with optional daily offerings provides a meditative framework to experience the mystical, prepare for the coming of the Christ child, and refresh and renew yourself through the Holy Spirit. We invite you to participate in this special week for as many days as your time permits.

### Benedictine Weekend Retreat

Friday, December 17 to

Sunday, December 19, 2010

The Canterbury Way at Grace Cathedral and The Bishop's Ranch are co-sponsoring this experience of Benedictine life in Advent. It is designed to bring men and women together in community to study and experience the balanced way of life as envisioned in the Rule of St. Benedict. The weekend offers care for the mind, body and spirit through prayer, study, work and leisure. The framework is the "Opus Dei," the corporate worship of God: offered at Matins, the Eucharist, Vespers and Compline. The Rule of St. Benedict inspires the sacred music, meditations, and lectures of the weekend.

**Retreat Leader:** Kayleen Asbo and friends

### Quiet Day with Bishop Marc

Saturday, January 8, 2011

Enter a time of stillness. Step into a contemplative space with a mix of silence and worship, movement and meditation. Claim a space for the gift of simply being present in God.

**Retreat Leader:** Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus

### The Soul's Way

*A Retreat for Busy Women*

Sunday, January 16 to

Monday, January 17, 2011

Our families, our work, our many other responsibilities; all these keep us plenty busy! So, even when we know we need it, we often find it hard to get away to renew and refresh ourselves. Tending the Soul's Garden will provide the chance for you to muse about the "yes's" and "no's" of your life, to

honor your own deepest self as you explore with other women what it means to be fully alive. There'll be time alone and time with others, structured time and free time, active time and quiet time. We'll end with a community Eucharist and an early supper together on Monday before heading home.

**Retreat Leader:** Rev. Whitney Roberson



Visit our website  
[www.bishopsranch.org](http://www.bishopsranch.org)  
 for registration information or  
 call Mark at 707-433-2440 x102.

## We are all headed toward evening

By Laurie Glover

We can watch, at sunset, the slow creep of light  
up the slopes of the opposite hill,  
watch it hang in the last tops of trees,  
then jump suddenly to the next hill behind.  
We are too small to cast a far shadow,  
though until the light leaves us, our legs seem to stretch long.  
When everything's gone, gone to twilight,  
we have to descend  
through the attentive groves of bay,  
past the gathered pennyroyal,  
the ooze of what was a stream, last spring.

### GIFTS GIVEN TO THE RANCH IN MEMORY, HONOR OR THANKSGIVING

Kat and Dave Anderson and family in honor of Sean Swift's careful stewardship of the Ranch

Kat and Dave Anderson in honor of the staff at The Bishop's Ranch

Bonnie Bishop in honor of Kayleen Asbo and Richard Schaper and their great love of The Bishop's Ranch

Claude W. Bloom in memory of Barbara Hibbert Bloom

Barbara H. Cadwalader in memory of Burns Cadwalader

Frances Calavan, remembering the Rev. C. Corwin Calavan's 100th birthday

The Coholan Family in thanksgiving for the staff of Generations

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Colton in memory of Elizabeth W. Colton

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Colton in memory of The Rev. Albert J. Colton

Linda and Victor Gavenda in honor of Emma Victoria Gavenda  
Barbara B. Girard in loving memory of Jerald A. Girard

Marty and Joyce Griffin in memory of Gina Monaco Griffin

Jan Herbert in memory of Peg Gilreath

Ms. Randa Jacobs in fond memory of Dale Swanson

The Ven. Dorothy K. Jones in thanksgiving for the Benedictine Experience

Mrs. Edward K. Markell in memory of Ed Markell and Anne Markell

James S. and Margaret H. Martin in memory of Audrey Enderlin

Ms. Virginia McNeely in honor of the terrific staff of the Ranch

Carolyn F. Mulliken in honor of and designated for the treehouse project

Connie and Frank Prim in loving memory of Lori Bond-Keech

Jeff and Ann Roberts in memory of Jack and Elise Green

Ann Robertson in memory of Bruce Robertson

Joy Robinson in memory of Morton and Emilie Robinson

Arlene Stine in memory of Dave Dale

Pamela Dodd Tate in memory of Susan Fuqua Moss and Clementa Hostetler Green

Mr. and Mrs. Jephtha A. Wade, Jr. in honor of Lloyd Aubry

Ron and Kay Wells in memory of Charles Donaldson

Douglas and Linda Wong in honor of Lindsay Wong's wedding

Lisa Yount in honor of Maggie Ross



## Thank you for gifts to the Ranch's annual operations and development!

Your generosity nurtures this center of hospitality.

Operations gifts include the Annual Fund, tree house repair, Chapel window sponsorships, Gina's Orchard Watershed Education Program, Partnership Fund, the Swing Pavilion Project and more...

Linda Albert	Dennis and Phyllis Edmondson	Frances A. Lana
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Suzy Brennan	The Rev. Catie Greene	Dick and Sandy McCray
The Rev. James T. Brown	The Rev. Janet Griffin	Sarah, James and Clare McGowan
The Very Rev. Don and Carol Anne Brown	Marty and Joyce Griffin	W. Lynn McLaughlin and David L. Webb
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Marc Duste and Helen Archer-Duste	Suzanne Kurtz	The Rev. Dr. W. Mark Richardson
Martha N. Eakland	Philip M. Lally	and Ms. Brenda Richardson

These names reflect gifts or pledge payments received between March 1, 2010 and August 15, 2010. If you sent in a contribution during this time and your name is not here, we apologize. Please contact us to let us know. If we received a contribution after August 15, 2010 your name will appear in the next newsletter. Please note that all 2010 Annual Fund donors whose gifts and pledge payments are received by December 31, 2010 are listed by giving group in the Annual Fund Report which will be published after January 1, 2011.

The Rev. and Mrs. George Ridgway  
 Ray Riess  
 Sally Riggs  
 Chris and Christine Rimer  
 David and Leslie Ross  
 The Rev. R. Calvert and Roxann Rutherford  
 Sue and Mike Sartor  
 Sam and Helen Sause  
 Jack Sawyer  
 Edward and Jane Sebree  
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 Richard S. Wheeler  
 William C. Whiteside  
 Inge H. Wilde  
 Camp and Gail Wilson  
 Michael and Trinetta Wilson  
 Sally Winn  
 Stanley and Verena Won  
 Adrienne Yee

#### GIFTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS

Community Foundation Sonoma County  
 The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Inc.  
 Employees Charity Organization  
 of Northrop Grumman  
 The Joy L. Robinson Fund, an advised fund  
 of Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
 Schwab Charitable Fund  
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Oakland  
 St. Francis' Episcopal Church, San Francisco,  
 St. Lydia's Guild  
 The Jeannette Upton Endowment  
 United Way of the Bay Area  
 The Margaret Wosser Foundation

## Thank you for non-cash donations to the Ranch's annual operations!

#### DONATIONS OF REAL GOODS

Acorn Winery, 2006 Alegria Heritage Vines Zinfandel  
 Mr. John Bucher, cow manure for compost mix  
 Frances Calavan and Ms. Nancy J. Calavan, watercolor painting  
 Emmett and Carol Cooke, linens  
 Eleanor Errante, candle lighter/snuffer in honor of the Benedictines  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul A.D. Evans, microwave oven  
 Mr. James Forsyth, linens  
 Donn Francis and Genevieve Navar, linens  
 Laurie Glover, coffee mugs and coffee pot  
 Brian and Tracy Haughton, basketball hoop  
 Joanna Henrichs, linens  
 James Herlitz, ladder  
 Shelley Hird of Yolo County Knitters, a vacuum cleaner and linens  
 David and Lonnie Hinckley, armchair  
 The Ven. Dorothy K. Jones, linens  
 David G. R. Keller, Jr., books  
 Ginger Long, linens  
 Holly McAlpen, paten and linens  
 Mary Ellen McMuldren, linens  
 Ray Riess, coffee makers  
 Judith Robinson, linens  
 Ted and Didi Rodrigues, washer and dryer  
 Cathy Salgado, ironing board and linens  
 Sheila Cunningham Sims, linens  
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Ross, meeting space  
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco, meeting space  
 St. Stephen's, Orinda, pens  
 Joseph and Sheila Taylor, sofa  
 Dodd & Mary Thorpe, computer and linens

#### DONATIONS OF TIME AND TALENT

Benedictine Experience participants  
 Bishop's Ranch Board of Directors  
 Alan Beber  
 Chapel of St. George volunteers  
 David Ellis  
 Stan Gwyn  
 Jane Heath  
 Ron Johnson  
 John Kaso  
 Jay Martin  
 Jane Marx  
 Men of Grace  
 Michael Selzer  
 Jan Slaby  
 St. James', San Francisco youth group  
 Dalton Ward

**The Bishop's Ranch Staff**  
**Executive Director**  
 Sean Swift

**Office**  
 Cacilia Dale  
 Jack Dowling  
 Mark Fassett  
 Sarah McGowan  
 Shannon Reilly  
 Caroline Draper Swift

**Programs**  
 The Rev. Patricia Moore  
 Lisa Marie Thorpe

**Buildings and Gardens**  
 Jack "Cass" Grimes  
 Rick Kaye  
 Travis Shoemaker  
 Doug Wade

**Housekeeping**  
 Concepción Conde  
 Maria González  
 Susana Gutierrez  
 Josefina Lopez  
 Cuca Padilla  
 Carolina Sandoval  
 Adriana Villafuerte

**Kitchen**  
 Melanie Berry  
 Hannah Bucher  
 Kandie Faurot  
 Hannah Klisura  
 Robin Miller  
 Melinda Mohr  
 Pedro Morales  
 Eleanor Nichols  
 Rosalva Nuno Aguirrea  
 Sam Ojebola  
 Robert Olsen

*Employees are listed in their primary work group. Several work in more than one function.*

## Coming Home

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

Send correspondence and address corrections to:  
 The Bishop's Ranch  
 Coming Home  
 5297 Westside Road  
 Healdsburg, CA 95448  
 Tel. 707-433-2440  
 Fax. 707-433-3431  
 email: [info@bishopsranch.org](mailto:info@bishopsranch.org)  
[www.bishopsranch.org](http://www.bishopsranch.org)

## The Bishop's Ranch Wish List

Maintenance/gardens wishes:

Our small Nissan pick-up truck is failing. We would welcome a donation of a used pick-up, either two-wheel or four-wheel drive.

We are also interested in donations of:

- Barn-18' X 26' (or something close to that size)
- Belt grinder, metal working
- Blacksmithing equipment, including: anvil (160 lbs. or better), coal or gas forge, hammers, tongs or other tools
- Dump trailer
- Forklift attachment for tractor
- Kawasaki Mule 4-wheel drive vehicle
- Mechanic to work on electric golf car
- Landscape materials: large boulders, soil, flagstone
- Saw with stand, 12" slide-mitre, wood shop type
- Split rail fence material (redwood) We can disassemble and pick up
- Water tank, 1,000 gallon
- Water trailer, 500 gallon
- Wood planer, 12" electric

Other wishes:

- Apple iMac 21" with Intel processor
- Bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths, in excellent condition
- Bread slicer
- Carts, small garden type
- Front loading, high efficiency dryer
- LCD projector
- Sheets, twin or double in excellent condition
- Vacuums, excellent condition

A monetary or in-kind gift for an item on the wish list helps Ranch guests have a more productive and comfortable stay and helps the Ranch staff improve services to guests.

## The Bishop's Ranch Board of Directors

**Chairman of the Board,**  
 The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus  
 Diocese of California

**President,** Nigel Heath  
 St. John's, Ross

**Co-Vice Presidents,**  
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 St. Luke's, San Francisco  
 Bente A. Carter  
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 Judy Harris  
 Epiphany, San Carlos  
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 Church of the Resurrection,  
 Pleasant Hill  
 Carole Jan Lee  
 St. James, San Francisco  
 The Rev. Susan Parsons  
 St. Francis of Assisi, Novato  
 Sheila Sims  
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 Sean Swift  
 The Bishop's Ranch  
 George Wilson  
 The Bishop's Ranch

facebook



Name:  
 The Bishop's Ranch

## Become a Fan

The Bishop's Ranch has a Facebook page. Become a fan by clicking 'Like' on our Page. There is also a group called The Bishop's Ranch that you can join.