

# A View from the Ridge



Volume 11, issue 3



## ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

### RESTORE, REBUILD, RENEW- Capital Campaign News

The first major project of the Capital Campaign, Restore, Rebuild, Renew, has been completed! Thanks to our generous donors, the former Moses Hall has been gutted, redesigned, modernized, and renamed. The Larry J. Peacock Carriage House was taken back to the studs and beyond. It now has new bedrooms, new private bathrooms, restroom and coffee bar in the conference room, a fully handicapped accessible bedroom and bath, and air conditioning! The Conference Room is now known as Moses Hall in honor of the original gift in the 1950's.

You who have given to the Capital Campaign have made it more comfortable, more modern, and more saleable to groups and retreatants. Thank you.

It is wonderful; you must see it. So come CELEBRATE at the Dedication on 6 November. (details elsewhere)

As we celebrate the first major project, we recognize that there are many more to be done. The main house needs better room configuration and more private baths with each room. Air conditioning and better heating will make the main house so much more comfortable and Rolling Ridge more financially sustainable. Wouldn't you, too, like to see more handicapped accessibility?

Funding made it impossible to do the entire project as originally envisioned. With the help and support of generous people who are committed to the life of the Ridge, more will be done. Rolling Ridge will have a facility that truly supports the vision of its being the "premiere retreat center in New England". Watch for more news, call and ask questions, be part of the growing excitement. Participate!

Thank you for all you have given in the past, your support, your enthusiasm, your gifts. Thank you in advance for all you may do in the future.

### Dedication of the Larry J. Peacock Carriage

The Dedication Ceremony of the newly renovated Larry J. Peacock Carriage House will take place on Sunday, November 6th from 3pm-5:30pm.

The afternoon/open house will feature tours of the

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Every morning I walk from the Director's house and am enjoying the brisk feeling of autumn coming to Rolling Ridge and its fields, Lake Cochichewick, and the forest. What a beautiful place this is, and I, like so many before me, am blessed by its beauty. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Interim Director.

The Rolling Ridge staff and I have been busy hosting groups from the local area, Boston, New England, the United States, and even a few guests from Malaysia this week. There are always so many wonderful people with whom to talk. "How has your visit been? How many are in your group? Yes, the canoes are there for your group to use. What beautiful vegetables our gardeners brought us! Which of these paintings was done by you? Of course, you can visit The Carriage House. Yes, it is beautiful." I have enjoyed my many conversations and interactions with people who come here to Rolling Ridge for renewal and reflection.

Conversations with the Rolling Ridge Board have been focused and intentional, and I am impressed with the members' care for the future of Rolling Ridge. The Search Committee is working with the Board which is leading to the selection of the next right Director of Rolling Ridge.

Conversations with the Center for Spirituality and Leadership Team are leading to decisions about present programs and the development of new and exciting programs held at Rolling Ridge. This past summer's Peace Conference was a wonderful success, and plans are even now beginning for 2017's Peace Conference with the topic again on interfaith dialogue. *Continued on page 2...*

facility, and light refreshments. Larry Peacock plans to attend as we celebrate the first phase of the Capital Campaign completion.

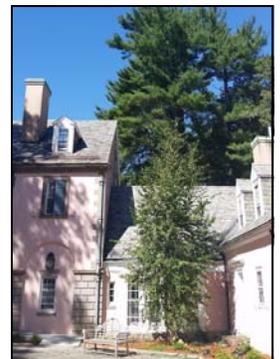
At 3:30, a short dedication ceremony and program will commence with a word from Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar and a glimpse into Phase Two of the Campaign by the Board of Directors, as well as the unveiling of the plaque.

For further information, contact Interim Director, Melinda Trotti at 978-682-8815 ext. 2.

Fall, 2016

#### Of Interest

- WORD FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE
- HOLIDAYS AT THE RIDGE
- STAFF SPOTLIGHT
- NAVIGATING CHANGE
- NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE
- FALL SPECIAL



#### Inside this issue:

- DIRECTORS REFLECTIONS 1
- NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 1
- ROLLING RIDGE IMPROVEMENTS 2
- GATEWAYS TO GOD 2016 3
- NAVIGATING CHANGE 3
- UPDATES ON THE LJP CARRIAGE HOUSE 4
- UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE RIDGE 4



## NEWS FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee to find a successor to Larry Peacock's impressive leadership of Rolling Ridge was formed this spring. Comprised of eight members representing the Rolling Ridge Board, United Methodists, interfaith colleagues, local stakeholders, clergy, and staff, the team is diverse in faith perspective, age, gender, and race. The Committee is chaired by former Rolling Ridge Board Chair Rev. Rachel Fisher, and is assisted by a professional consultant in not-for-profit leadership hiring, Stewart Lanier.

Work developing a job posting and Organizational Profile was completed in the late spring. A detailed Job Description is being developed in conjunction with the Rolling Ridge Board, which is in a period of discernment about the specific leadership qualities required for Rolling Ridge in its next season. Applications began to arrive in July, and will continue to be received through the application deadline of Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. We aspire to find a new Executive Director this fall, with a hiring date early in the new year.

Please pray with us for the Board's excellent discernment, for the Search Committee's wisdom as we begin to read applications, and for the continued good success of the ministries and programs at Rolling Ridge.

-Rachel Fisher

## NEW GROUPS COMING TO THE RIDGE

- MeditTech Art Liaison Retreat
- Quaker Women Leaders in Ministry National Meeting
- Boston College Karios Retreats
- Boston College Women's Center Thrive Retreat
- NELLIS 2 First Retreat New England Librarians Symposium
- Christ Apostolic Church Women's Prayer Retreat
- 7th Day Adventist of Boston first Hispanic Women's Retreat
- Ontar Corporation
- Women of the Word Retreat
- Harvard Business School Alumni Retreat
- Overseed Ministry Pastor's Retreat
- Mass. General Hospital Pediatric Intern Retreat



Rolling Ridge Maintenance Team Members, Charlie Coulbourn and Will Kerr give the shutters a facelift, bringing the courtyard one step closer to completion.

## From the Director, Continued from page 1...

Conversations with members of the planning team for Gateways to God have offered me an understanding of this two year program focused on spiritual direction and congregational formation, and we are planning for the fourth Gateways even as we are beginning the third.

Conversations with staff are numerous, all day, often humorous, and have offered me a chance to learn so much in a short period of time. Rolling Ridge is blessed by such a committed staff.

Conversations by supporters and staff are leading to the November 6<sup>th</sup> Dedication of the Larry Peacock Carriage House to the future ministry of Rolling Ridge. Please join us in this joyous celebration.

Rolling Ridge is a place for conversations with God and each other. I look forward to more conversations with you and many others as together we create a sustainable future for this sacred place.

-Melinda

## Many More Years Before Us

It's that time of year when we think of financial planning and our future; not only where we are now, but what will our legacy be? What impact can we have on the future of the people and places we value?

How can we help to ensure that the things we have valued will not simply continue to exist, but to grow, to flourish, and to provide meaning for those who will follow us?

As friends and supporters of Rolling Ridge, you have the opportunity to ensure the future impact of the Ridge as you build your own legacy. **Planned** or **Legacy** giving is an easy and important way to way to do both. Please consider leaving part of your estate to Rolling Ridge.

There are many ways to do this. It could be as simple as making the Ridge a beneficiary of an insurance policy or remembering the Ridge in your will. There are other possibilities, as well; and we would be happy to talk with you about them.

We will also thank and celebrate your generosity and caring with membership in The Arches Society. The beautiful arches at the Ridge remind us of the on-going presence and influence of Rolling Ridge.

Please join others who want to help Rolling Ridge continue its mission after they are gone, throughout the Many More Years Before Us. Thank you

-Lynda Fairbanks-Atkins

A Will can be the foundation of an estate plan that provides security for those dependent upon us, directs how assets we have spent a lifetime accumulating are to be distributed, and remembers organizations such as Rolling Ridge that we supported during our life-

## Have you remembered Rolling Ridge in your will?

## GATEWAYS TO GOD 3: TRAINING IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AND CONGREGATIONAL FORMATION.

The two-year training program, **Gateways to God**, began September and will complete the training to become spiritual directors and work in spiritual formation ministries in faith communities. The training involves six retreats, that will conclude in 2018. For information about future training and/or registration, contact Beth Garnaas-Holmes at [gateways.rollingridge@gmail.com](mailto:gateways.rollingridge@gmail.com). All six retreats are held at Rolling Ridge.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT- Alsine Cormey Staff Writer: Danny Smith



Very few places can say that they have an employee who has the history with their employer as Rolling Ridge does with Alsine Cormey. Alsine and I sat down in the sitting room on a Friday afternoon and had a conversation about her memories of days at Rolling Ridge as a camper, a worker, and an employee.

D: Do You remember the first time you stepped foot at Rolling Ridge?

A: "The very first time? Not exactly. I probably came with my

Youth Group from the FUMC in North Andover. I always came with my youth group but sometimes as a worker, sometimes as a camper"

D: What has stayed the same since then?

A: Not much at all...I believe room 13 had a door going out side, and the dining room was built after— not sure of the year. There was no pool or pool house, and the boathouse was still here.

D: What did you do for work when you came as a youth group? How old were you and how long did you attend?

A: We worked cleaning inside and outside. I came here as a 16 year old and continued all through my high school years for 4 years.

D: What do wish was here now that was here then?

A: A working fountain

D: Where are your favorite places in the building and outside?

A: The Courtyard and the Stairway. We sang in the stairway.

D: Who was the most influential person in your youth and why?

A: Ralph and Sandy York. They were like a big brother and sister, and they were mentors. I took care of their baby until he was 6 years old. We stayed in touch and visited them in California.

D: You left Rolling Ridge in 1951 moved to California in 1958. You were there for 1 year until you came back to North

## HOLIDAYS AT THE RIDGE

It's not too early to book your holiday lunch or dinner at the Ridge. Church group, business group, non-profit staff or family gathering— come enjoy the manor house decorated for the season, fireplaces aglow and delicious food served in the beautiful lakeside gallery dining room. **Call Laurie Brown 978-682-8815 ext. 4. Call today!**

Andover in 1970. How did your return to Rolling Ridge in 1993 happen?

A: I was talking with the secretary at the church who was diagnosed with MS. I asked her if she would like to have me come clean her house. She said no, but she knew that Rolling Ridge was looking for a housekeeper.

D: What was it like your first time coming back to Rolling Ridge?

A: It was like coming home.

D: What had changed the most?

A: The pool was added and the pool house.

D: So after working at RR for 23 years what has made the most significant impact to you?

A: The place itself.

D: After your retirement, what is your wish for one thing for RR?

A: Do something with the pool house. I cringe every time I drive by

D: What is your favorite teen memory?

A: The friendships I made when I came to camp

D: Are you still in touch with any of those people?

A: Yes. Mostly members of the church youth group

D: What is your favorite memory while being back?

A: All the improvements, particularly the oval room, Merton definitely— we used to have a futon in it and we paid \$75 a night to have someone sleep over as personnel.

D: What do you hope will always stay the same about RR?

A: Keep improving, especially the road.

D: What one gift would you say Rolling Ridge gave to you as a child?

A: It gave me more confidence in myself as a teen

D: So this newsletter will go out to over 600 people. What do you want them to know about RR that they might not already know?

A: What a special place it is to me.

D: What's the biggest reason it's special?

A: It helped me through my teen years.

D: What didn't I ask you that you hoped I would?

A: Nothing really. Oh...I left once to take care of my grandchild in Texas. When I came back I had no plan of returning to Rolling Ridge. When they found out I was back, they asked me to come back to work.

D: Alsine, please finish this sentence: "Rolling Ridge is \_\_\_\_\_"

A: A Big part of my life.

Alsine Cormey will leave Rolling Ridge in December. Over 65 years of history as a camper and as an employee, she will retire with her husband, Hilton. Thanks for the memories Alsine!

# Rolling Ridge

Retreat and Conference Center

Changing the World  
...One Retreat at a Time

660 Great Pond Road  
North Andover, MA 01845

Phone: 978-682-8815  
Fax: 978-681-1162  
E-mail: [thestaff@rollingridge.org](mailto:thestaff@rollingridge.org)

Rolling Ridge is a  
Not for Profit Ministry of  
Hospitality & Program of the  
New England Annual  
Conference of the United  
Methodist Church.

Visit our website  
at [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org)

Like us on  
**Facebook**



## WISHING...

Our **Wish List** of things we  
sure could use.

One Person Kayaks with  
paddles

Canoes and Paddles

New Adirondack Chairs

Gift Certificates to Home  
Depot, Lowes, & Costco

20" New Stihl Chainsaw

New Gas Husqvarna  
Hedger

New Toro Gas Weed  
Wacker

**WE THANK YOU!**



The Meeting Space on the ground floor of the Peacock Carriage House is now the Horace Moses Meeting Space

## STILL WATERS

Come gather with a growing community one Sunday evening each month, for a renewing time of food, conversation and prayer. After the week's stress, gather at Still Waters for refreshment and rejuvenation with dinner at 5:30 and worship and prayer at 6:30. Dinner reservations, \$20.

- October 30 TAIZE
- November 20
- December 12 TAIZE

## Upcoming Events at Rolling Ridge

Programs at Rolling Ridge are a wonderful way "to be cradled in an atmosphere of contemplation and hospitality"

Come join us for these upcoming programs:

10/11: Heart Based Living: Connecting to Wisdom Through Body-based Practice w/Henry Schoenfield

10/12: Writing from Within w/ Ray McGinnis

10/17: Grow with Flow w/ Grace Durfee

10/24: Family Care Givers, Retreat and Renew! w/ Mary MacDonald

10/27: Ugly Prayer w/Steve Garnaas-Holmes

10/30: Still Waters

11/1: Drumming for Joy! W/ Jane Gossard

11/2: Honoring Loss w/ Melody Lee, Karen Edwards, & Dorothy Emerson

11/6: Dedication of the Larry J. Peacock Carriage House/Open House Celebration  
Everyone is Welcome

11/15: Coming home to God w/ Carroll Moore

11/20: Still Waters

11/21: Creative Paper Crafting w/Judy Campbell

12/11: Still Waters- TAIZE

12/12: Advent Quiet Day w/ Karen Kilty

12/21: Winter Solstice Drumming for Joy! w/ Jane Gossard.

Visit **WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG** for a complete description of our programs and registration. Click on "Programs" and "Day Apart Retreats" or "Special Events".



Seven new clean bathrooms, ten lovely air-conditioned guest rooms, and a newly renovated meeting space make up the first phase of the Capital Campaign for Rolling Ridge with the completion of the Larry J. Peacock Carriage House. Décor and amenities await further funding as there's still a need for rooms to be completely furnished. Call Interim Director Melinda Trotti for more information if you would like to be a part of the building's completion.

## FALL SPECIAL

**WE HAVE DATES!** Take advantage of this special by **booking by October 28th**

**Come and Stay in the Newly renovated Carriage House!!!**

BOOK ONE NIGHT, get a **SECOND** night's stay for **FREE!** (Select mid-week dates only. Groups of 10 or more, overnight stay only, not incl. meals)

Call Laurie Brown, Sales Specialist to discuss availability and rates. 978-682-8815 x4

*"Changing the World... One Retreat at a Time"*