SIGHTLINES—Views from the Director

For my prayer time, I am reading a collection of writings from Christian mystics. The words of Francis de Sales jumped out at me: “Think of the possibilities God has placed in you.” I am always filled with hope in the new year—the endless possibilities—but these possibilities from God are not just before me but within me. And within you.

At a recent Board meeting, the Chairperson asked us to name our vision for Rolling Ridge. I immediately thought of the vision of a new road and new facilities. I was ready to share my vision when others began: “Rolling Ridge as a place of boundless joy.” “A hope that people who are seeking will find this place.” I was taken back by the beauty and depth of the sharing, their vision of what happens at Rolling Ridge regardless of the road and facilities.

I did end up sharing my vision of the new road and it brought some laughter but also a sense of wholeness. The possibilities for Rolling Ridge and the possibilities for each one of us are a weaving of external activities and projects and internal attitudes and beliefs. God has placed in me an incredible hope and an unyielding trust in the often mysterious unfolding of God’s yearning for good. I pray daily for guidance to carry out the vision for upgraded and new facilities, new programs and for Rolling Ridge to be a place of “boundless joy.”

What are the new possibilities God has placed before you and within you? Rolling Ridge is a good place to come listen deeply to the still small voice of God. It is a good place to shape some new visions for your life. This is holy ground where the meaning of external projects and internal nudges can become a garment of wholeness and beauty.

I hope you will find a Rolling Ridge program that speaks to your soul and you will sign up for this possibility that God has placed before you and within you.

See you at the Ridge,

Larry
MEET THE STAFF

Guest Services and Office Manager: Carol Rabs
Property Manager: Tony Russo
Housekeeping Manager: Alsine Cormey
Chef Manager: Timothy Walsh

These four lead staff members meet regularly with Director, Larry Peacock to oversee the program and the facilities of Rolling Ridge. Another 20 people work part-time in providing services for all our guests. We are happy to welcome you and make your visit to Rolling Ridge a comfortable and renewing experience.

WINTER/SPRING 2007 CALENDAR

February 13
A Day Apart: The Healthy Connection: Mind, Body and Spirit
Leader: Sophia Harrell, RN

February 25—26
The Arts: A Pathway to Prayer
Leader: Priscilla Dreyman

February 27
An Evening at the Ridge: Drumming for Joy
Leader: Jane Gossard

March 11–13
Silent Retreat for Clergy
Leaders: Rev. Victoria Gaskell and Rev. Larry Peacock

March 15
An Evening at the Ridge: Drumming for Joy
Leader: Jane Gossard

March 19
An Evening at the Ridge: It's Never Too Late: Finding Hope and Faith at Midlife
Leader: Eric Feustel

March 26
An Evening at the Ridge: Chants for the Road and Other Places
Leader: Rev. Paul Millin

April 17
Companions on the Way: Madeleine L'Engle
Leader: Rev. Jill Wiley

May 1
The Enneagram: Understanding and Expanding Your Personality Style
Leader: Herb Pearce

May 14–18
OASIS: A Spiritual Spa

June 5
Walking in Circles, Finding a Way
Leader: Rev. Paul Millin

June 22–24
All Creation Declares God's Glory
Leader: Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

June 26
Seeking the Sacred in Scripture and Poetry: An Experience in Lectio Divina
Leader: Rev. Karen Lewis Foley

WELCOME

Rolling Ridge looks forward to hosting the following new groups in 2007:

All Saints Church
Brookridge Community Church
Cambridge Kids Council
Gordon College Theological Seminary
Healing Touch Workshop
Massachusetts Department of Education
North Parish Unitarian Church
Susan Van Drie
Second Congregational Church of Beverly
Temple Shalom
Trinitarian Congregational Church of Maynard
Women's Interfaith Spiritual Encounter

We still have room for your group. Won't you consider booking an event this summer or fall? We still have a few mid-week openings for spring too!

BOOK A RETREAT

Do you belong to a group looking for a place to hold a retreat or conference? Are you looking for a place to hold a staff lunch and planning meeting? Do you want to get away for some rest and renewal?

Come to Rolling Ridge! Call us for your meeting needs. We have a DLP projector available for your PowerPoint presentation; we have WIFI for your computer work; we have quiet space for you to relax. Our staff is trained to meet your needs.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Hundreds of thousands of feet have crossed the threshold into Rolling Ridge. While we are delighted so many people have come, the floor in the entrance is looking tired and worn. Seventy years of being walked on. It is time for a new, beautiful, shining, tile floor. A local flooring specialist is working with us on designing a stunning and durable entrance and hallway. We are seeking gifts of all kinds, including memorial gifts. Please call our Director, Rev. Larry Peacock, at 978-682-8815 x 18 to arrange for your gifts. The estimated cost of a new entrance and hallway floor is $14,000.

“RIDGE ON THE ROAD”

Director Larry Peacock will be speaking at Hampton United Methodist Church in Hampton, NH on February 12 and at St. John’s United Methodist Church in Watertown, MA on March 12. Both evenings he will be speaking on Holding the Center: Spiritual Formation in the Local Church.

TWELVE MONTHS OF BLESSINGS

Two families have pledged to send a donation to Rolling Ridge every month in 2007. We are grateful for this faithful, consistent giving. If you would like to join the 12 month giving group, call our Director, Rev. Larry J. Peacock at 978-682-8815 x18.

60 Year Anniversary

We are collecting photos and memories of 60 years of serving youth and adults at Rolling Ridge. 2008 will be a big 60th year celebration! Call us at 978-682-8815 or email us at thestaff@rollingridge.org with your memories. If you want to help plan the celebration, give us a call.
LOOKING AHEAD!
Mark your calendars for our Fall 2007 events

DAY APART RETREATS

September 23  Spirituality in a 24/7 World
  Leader: Rev. Dr. Wanda Stahl

October 9  Dancing on the Gyroscope
  Leader: Donna Johnson

October 23  TWO CHOICES
  The Eye of the Needle: Money and a Life of Faith
  Leader: Rev. Victoria Gaskell
  Knowledge and Tools for Living Long and Well
  Leader: Dr. Jim Manganiello

November 6  Chanting in the Laundry Room
  Leader: Judy Proctor

November 20  Christian Meditation:
  An Ancient Path Comes Alive
  Leader: Robert Jonas

December 4  Wrapping in Swaddling Cloths
  Leader: Rev. Victoria Gaskell

FALL WEEKEND RETREAT
Author and national speaker, Linda Douty, a dynamite retreat leader from Tennessee, will lead


HOW CAN I LET GO IF I DON'T KNOW I'M HOLDING ON.

The program will begin

with dinner on Friday, October 26 and conclude with lunch on Sunday, October 28.

NEW LONG TERM PROGRAM
Drawing Nearer to God
An Eight Month Journey of Spiritual Deepening

This program will meet one Saturday each month, beginning with a retreat on Saturday, October 20 and concluding in April, 2008.

The Leadership Team is composed of spiritual directors and retreat leaders: Andrea Bliss-Lerman, Beth Garnaas-Holmes, Paul Millin and Larry Peacock.

Cost: $395

THANKS FOR BEING PART OF A GREAT YEAR!

A WISH LIST

- New twin-size mattresses
- A finger labyrinth
- Roll top chafing dishes
- New flooring for the dining room
- A new computer and server
- Twin-size blankets
- A massage table
- ATV for the grounds
- New dressers for the bedrooms
- New bathroom flooring

A big Thank You for contributions made in December.
From our November wish list we received 60 new place settings of beautiful silverware and new chairs for the sitting room. We also ordered the new mixer for the kitchen!

THANK YOU!

To make a donation or get more information about our wish list, please contact us at 978-682-8815 or by email at car@rollingridge.org

The Rolling Ridge Board of Directors adopted a timeline for development which looks to 2011 as the year for renovating the Main House and building a new three story retreat lodge. Between now and 2011, the Master Plan Timeline calls for a new road, renovated grounds and several community festivals. A Capital Campaign is being explored. Funds from the New England Conference, United Methodist Church, will provide the means to take the necessary steps.

For more information contact Executive Director, Larry Peacock (978-682-8815 or RevLPeacock@rollingridge.org) or Board Chairperson, Cynthia Good (978-475-7041 or alyse@comcast.net).

Members of the Board are:
- Margaret Benefiel
- Judy Proctor
- Eric Feustel
- Katherine Robinson
- Kerry Hamilton
- John Sendersky
- Kristen Hollenbeck
- Wanda Stahl
- Looking Toward the Future

REFLECTIONS ON 2006
An amazing year!

- Twelve Day Apart programs were offered--attendance increased from 6 to 35!
- OASIS: A Spiritual Spa attracted people from 5 states.
- SUMMERFEST welcomed Rev. Ted Loder and large crowds for worship.
- Jr. and Sr. High summer weeks were fun and changed young people’s lives.
- Partnerships were formed with Boston University School of Theology and Upper Room Ministries in Nashville, TN.
- 46 new groups and individuals on private retreat found Rolling Ridge!
- 218 groups and individuals on private retreat gathered for meetings and retreats.
- We became a licensed massage establishment.
- Renovated the Pool House changing rooms, Merton Room for persons on private retreat, the basement meeting areas and the entrance way.
- Received new silverware, a new kayak, new chairs, and new chandeliers.

THANKS FOR BEING PART OF A GREAT YEAR!
Our popular retreat series continues in 2007 with wonderful leaders and a variety of topics. ‘Come join us each month for “A Day Apart”.

February 13 The Healthy Connections: Mind, Body and Spirit Retreat Leader: Sophia Harrell Join Sophia Harrell, a passionate Nurse Educator, in learning ways to integrate a total health way of living. Through presentations and activities you will learn and experience ways to integrate body, mind and spirit.

April 17 Companions on the Way: Madeleine L’Engle Retreat Leader: Rev. Jill Wiley The writings of storyteller Madeleine L’Engle have inspired generations of readers. A Wrinkle in Time and A Wind in the Door are just two L’Engle classics found today on many school, family and library shelves. Through the arts and Christian discipleship, Madeleine L’Engle has sustained a vision for weaving together the threads of one’s life into a spiritual whole. This retreat will explore that vision in a day that will include several short talks based on L’Engle’s writings, with long periods for quiet reflection, and space and supplies for artistic expression.

May 1 The Enneagram—Understanding and Expanding Your Personality Style and Improving Your Relationships Retreat Leader: Herb Pearce The Enneagram is a system of knowledge that explains 9 different personality types and how each type experiences the world in their own unique way. You’d understand yourself and how to relate to others in ways that are much more effective, taking into account the validity of your world and theirs. You’d learn the 9 types by Herb acting out the types with props; discover your type, and get great coaching tips on how to relate well to each type and ways to enhance your unique growth path. Herb’s teaching style is entertaining, informative and clear.

June 6 Walking in Circles, Finding a Way Retreat Leader: Rev. Paul Millin Welcome or unwelcome, planned or unexpected, change happens many times during a lifetime. Even while rejoicing in a welcome change, an unexpected shift of our inner landscape may become like a wilderness experience. Pulled between the Good Old Days or life in the New Promised Land, transitions can be confusing. Yet it is in the wilderness experience that the Holy One comes to us, offering companionship for the journey.

This Day Apart retreat will have times of reflections from the leader, and most importantly, time to walk one of our three labyrinths—two outdoors and one indoors.

June 26 Seeking the Sacred in Scripture and Poetry: An Experience with Lectio Divina Retreat Leader: Rev. Karen Lewis Foley Lectio Divina, or “Sacred Reading” is ancient and modern. It was practiced by medieval monastics—and today many seek how the holy speaks to them in the written word. It is a way of being fully with a text. Though usually practiced with Hebrew and Christian scripture, we will explore a variety of texts including scriptures from the world’s religions and supposedly secular poetry, where spirit often runs deep. We will seek out how these passages speak particularly to who we are and who we are at this time in our lives.

Each day begins at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and refreshments and finishes at 3:30 p.m. A gourmet lunch and all program costs are included in the $40 registration fee ($45 at the door). You may register online at www.rollingridge.org or mail in your registration from this newsletter or a brochure.

Consider making one of our DAYS APART into a retreat stay. Come the night before or stay the night after.....call Guest Services at 978-682-8815 to check availability.

Thank you dear friends for your generosity! If we inadvertently left your name off the list, please forgive us and accept our heartfelt thanks!

Be grateful for the doors of opportunity and for the friends who oil the hinges.

2006 DONORS

Sue Bowman  Hope Church
Jane and Phil Bellomy  Robert Jonas
Anne Brooks & Larry Peacock  Wendy Knight
Patrick and Linda Cadu  Anne Larrington
Timothy Cline and Steven Swafford  Deborah Lang
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Bruce and Carol Copeland  Bonnie Manden
John Dahl  Melvina UMBF
Judith deGreniere  Jack Ann Miller
Ronald Delbert  Paul Millin
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Todd Fry  Harriet and Tom Rogers
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Cynthia Good and Alan Pratt  Joan and John Sedensky
John and Patricia Goosby  Herb and Sarah Taylor
Dorothy and Chuck Green  The Welches
Wayne and Marilyn Underhill  Judith Whitney
Alicia Halley  Frank Williams
Kerry Hamilton  Alice and William Winer
Lawrence Community Day Care

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Be grateful for the doors of opportunity and for the friends who oil the hinges.

Thanks

Call now to schedule your summer picnic. We have grills, picnic tables and space for you to enjoy the grounds and the swimming pool. We’ll even cater your meal for a reasonable fee!

We can host groups from 15 to 300 and the pool can accommodate up to 75 swimmers at a time. Come enjoy the healing beauty of Rolling Ridge.

SUMMER PICNICS

BODIES THERAPES

As a retreat center, our mission is to provide you with a place where you can attend to mind, body and spirit. Our classes and retreats provide opportunities to nourish the mind and the spirit, but sometimes it’s difficult to receive these gifts when our bodies are tense, wound up, and perhaps in pain. We offer body therapies so that, if you wish, you can refresh yourself by experiencing the calming, grounding effect of skilled, compassionate touch.

Our Guest Services office can make arrangements for the following therapies:

Therapeutic Massage $60
A one-hour massage involves gentle kneading of back, neck, head, feet, legs, arms and hands. Client is always modestly covered.

Therapeutic Massage and Energy Alignment $90
A 90 minute blending of energy therapies for well being. May include Reiki, Swedish Massage and Polarity Therapy.

Aromatherapy Massage $70
One of our massage therapists offers treatments using fragrant, healing essential oils.

Reiki $30
A hand-on healing technique to energize and balance body energy. Regular session is 30 minutes. A 60 minute session is also available.

Healing Touch $30
A 30 minute prayerful laying on of hands for balancing and healing. Regular session is 30 minutes. A 60 minute session is also available.

Call our Guest Services office, 978-682-8815 x11 for more information about booking a body therapy session.

Call now to schedule your summer picnic.

www.rollingridge.org

Call our Guest Services office, 978-682-8815 x11 for more information about booking a body therapy session.
Our Summer 2007 theme for youth programs is "On the Way." Have you ever noticed how so many biblical characters seem to be traveling? That's because they are on a journey of faith with God. We are on a journey too. These characters may be quite old now, but they have much to teach us while we are on the way.

Come this summer and find out how to be led, fed, blessed, and challenged on the journey, how important it is to walk together, and how to have fun in the midst of it all.

**THE ARTS: A PATHWAY TO PRAYER**

Leader: Priscilla Dreyman

Sunday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m. thru Monday, February 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Since the beginning of Christianity, followers of Christ have used the arts for meditation and prayer. Music, paintings, icons, mandalas, dance, sculpture, jewelry, have all opened people’s hearts to God’s living presence. In this retreat, we will explore several art forms as new ways to experience prayer. Dance, drumming, music, mandalas, clay, and watercolors will be available for everyone to try as they wish. Bring your own, Bible, a journal, and dress comfortably. This will be a time to relax, create, and discover new pathways of prayer.

Registration Fee: Private Room—$135 includes 3 meals and program
Double Room—$110 includes 3 meals and program

**SILENT RETREAT FOR CLERGY**

Leaders: Rev. Victoria Gaskell & Rev. Larry Peacock

Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m. thru Tuesday, March 13 at Noon

In this retreat we will explore and practice silence without and within through a variety of means, including vocal silence, sitting meditation, walking, gentle physical movement in tai chi and qi gong, and rest. All meals will be taken in silence and The Great Silence from 10:00 p.m. to 6:45 a.m. There will be an orientation, various short presentations to introduce an activity, short group check-ins, and a tea party on Monday afternoon, at which speech and also music will be an option; otherwise it is assumed that the practice of silence will be the norm of our time together. There will be opportunities for spiritual direction, walking a labyrinth, mandala and creative art expressions and massage. There is an additional fee of $60 for a 50 minute therapeutic massage.

Registration Fee: Private Room—$285 includes 6 meals and program
Double Room—$255 includes 6 meals and program

**OASIS—A Spiritual Spa**

May 14—18 Multiple Staff

This event will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14 and conclude after the evening worship service on Friday, May 17.

Liz and Matt Myer Boulton are the pastors of HOPE CHURCH BOSTON, a successful new church start sponsored by the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. Matt is also the professor of worship at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. They will preach at three evening services that will include guest choirs.

During the day, Curtis Brown, Director of Congregational Development for the New England Conference, will coordinate a Preaching Academy. Classes, discussions and mentoring will be part of the experience.

Swimming, massage, labyrinth walking, canoeing and kayaking will all be part of SUMMERFEST II.

Check our website for updated registration information and more event details.

www.rollingridge.org
Our Program Committee has developed a number of new spiritual growth opportunities that are being offered as evening programs. Some events are one-time opportunities related to a specific topic while others are monthly chances to share in fun, fellowship and growth.

**DRUMMING FOR JOY**

Leader: Jane Gossard

Come and enjoy the uplifting, joyful, healing power of drumming. The drumming circle is a place where we experience deep connection to the spirit and feel the truth that we are all one. No experience with drumming is necessary. Everyone has a drummer inside. All you need is a drum to find him/her. Drums and rhythmic instruments will be provided, but if you have a drum or rhythm instrument of your own, bring it along!

**Tuesday, February 27**
**Thursday, March 15**
**Monday, April 16**
**Thursday, May 10**

Come for one event or all of them!

**IT’S NEVER TOO LATE: FINDING HOPE AND FAITH AT MIDLIFE**

Leader: Eric Feustel

Monday, March 19

“All politics is local politics,” said Tip O’Neil, and so too, all religion is personal religion. This evening together is about letting God leap from the pages of the Bible into daily life, into issues of our middle years, into broken plans and neglected dreams. The writer of Ecclesiastes had tried it all. What lessons for midlife can we learn from this wise writer? Come, find hope and faith!

**Monday, March 26**

**CHANTS FOR THE ROAD AND OTHER PLACES**

Leader: Rev. Paul Millin

Chanting in the Christian tradition has moved from monastic communities into the lives of ordinary people. Chanting can be a calming and focusing practice for developing a relaxed attentiveness to normal daily activities. Even being stuck in traffic can be transformed by this simple practice! Yet, at its heart, chanting is a meditative tool to deepen awareness of the sacred by prayerful breathing. Drawing upon English hymns and ecumenical sources, participants will learn about and experience chanting as a Spiritual Practice.

Each of our evening programs begins with a buffet dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with refreshments at 8:30 p.m.

Registration fee: $25 includes buffet dinner and program

$15 program only

You may register online at www.rollingridge.org or mail in your registration from this newsletter or a brochure.

**COME EARLY...STAY LATE**

Consider making one of our **EVENINGS AT THE RIDGE** into a retreat stay. Come the night before or stay the night after...call Guest Services at 978-682-8815 to check availability.
In 1948 a group of United Methodists purchased Rolling Ridge for $55,000. A small sum in today’s money yet it was a bold investment and a witness to a grand future. We are the recipients of the vision established by those early faithful dreamers. Rolling Ridge was officially dedicated on October 2nd and in 2008 we shall honor the vision, celebrate the current ministry and make plans for the beckoning future!

We are collecting names and stories of people whose lives have been changed by Rolling Ridge. We are planning a 60th year celebration and looking toward the next 60 years of serving New England as a center for spiritual renewal. Call 978-682-8815 or email us (thestaff@rollingridge.org) with your stories. Help us gather the alumni back to the Ridge.

I know life is multi-faceted and easy answers often avoid the deeper and harder questions. Yet, like most, I long for simple truths that give guidance to the difficulties and nuances of life. Here are some simple truths that continue to guide my life and help me navigate the crises and disappointments:

- Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. - Jesus
- Be still and know that I am God. - The Psalms
- Tell me, I’ll forget. Show me, I may remember. But involve me and I’ll understand. - Chinese Proverb
- Whatever you do or dream you can do—begin it. Boldness has genius and power and magic in it. - Johann Goethe
- You must be the change you wish to see in the world. - Gandhi
- Show up. Pay attention. Speak the truth. Don’t get attached to the results. - Unknown

I pray Rolling Ridge embodies all these truths. We want people to come away to a quiet place (show up) and find rest (be still) and renewal in order to return to the world ready to “speak the truth” and “love neighbor” and world, being bold and living the change desired!

On the entrance wall of Rolling Ridge is this quote—“Come away to a quiet place and rest awhile.” Participants don’t stay forever, rather this time apart is for perspective, sharing, thinking, praying, re-energizing—claiming again the simple truths that shape and guide our lives.

I hope you will accept my invitation to come (by yourself or with a group) to touch the deep truths that give meaning and purpose to life. We are here to help people “pay attention,” “speak the truth,” “love” and “dream” something new and bold!

See you this Summer; make plans for the Fall.

Larry
SUMMER / FALL 2007 CALENDAR

June
- 5 Walking in Circles, Finding a Way
  Leader: Rev. Paul Millin
- 22–24 All Creation Declares God’s Glory
  Leader: Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas
- 26 Seeking the Sacred in Scripture and Poetry: An Experience in Lectio Divina
  Leader: Rev. Karen Lewis Foley
July
- 9 Fullness of Joy on the Path of Life: An Evening Labyrinth Walk
  Leader: Rev. Paul Millin
- 11–13 SUMMERFEST ’07 and The New England Preaching Academy
  Leaders: Revs. Matthew and Liz Myer-Bolton
- 15–19 Junior High Camp
  Director: Rev. Jeff Hunt
- 20–22 Elementary Retreat Weekend
  Directors: Lori Ann and Jason Bergman
- 28–Aug. 2 Senior High Camp
  Director: Patti Coffill
August
- 7 Peace in Every Step: An Evening Labyrinth Walk
  Leader: Rev. Paul Millin
- 13–15 Pastoring Multiple Churches
September
- 23 Youth Training Event
- 25 Day Apart: Nurturing Spirituality in a 24 / 7 World
  Leader: Rev. Wanda Stahl
October
- 9 Day Apart: Dancing on the Gyroscope
  Leaders: Donna and Rev. Sam Johnson
- 19 Drawing Near to God: An 8 month journey of Spiritual Deepening
- 23 Day Apart: Eye of the Needle: Money and a Life of Faith
  Leader: Rev. Victoria Gaskell
November
- 6 The Extraordinary in the Ordinary
  Leader: Judy Proctor
- 20 Christian Meditation: An Ancient Path Comes Alive
  Leader: Dr. Robert Jonas
December
- 4 Wrapped in Swaddling Cloths: The Presence of God as Infant
  Leader: Rev. Victoria Gaskell

MAIN HOUSE ROOM RENOVATIONS

Our interior design consultant, Mary O’Neill, has planned new colors, new mattresses, sheets and covers, new window treatments and new rugs for each of the six main house bedrooms. Each will be uniquely decorated with its own color scheme. The five fireplaces will be highlighted with new trim paint and rich accent walls.

Renovation costs are estimated at $1500 for each room with 2 twin beds and $2000 for each room that has 3 twin beds. Total for the six rooms is $12,000. Call our director, Larry Peacock, if you or a group you belong to would like to sponsor a Main House Room Renovation.

OASIS 2007

“OASIS was my best retreat experience ever.” High praise from one of the participants at our second annual OASIS: A Spiritual Spa, May 14-18. Both full time and “Taste of OASIS—Day Experience” participants enjoyed yoga, massage, prayer classes, rest and relaxation, art, body therapies, canoeing, kayaking, worship and delicious, healthy meals.

Thanks to a dedicated team of teachers, spiritual directors, and body therapists for providing a week of care for body, mind and soul. Mark your calendar to join us next year May 12 -15, 2008!

“RIDGE ON THE ROAD”

Executive Director, Rev. Larry J. Peacock, will be representing Rolling Ridge at the United Methodist New England Annual Conference from June 7-10 at Gordon College.

He will be guest preacher at Hope Church, Boston on Sunday evening (5:30 p.m.), July 22.

MEET THE STAFF

Carrie Flaherty, former owner and chef at Radio Market and Deli in Haverhill, is the new Chef Manager at Rolling Ridge. She comes recommended to us by a former cook and caterer. WELCOME CARRIE!

COMPLIMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR RECENT GUESTS

The Christian spirit permeates this lovely sanctuary”

“The atmosphere is warm and homelike”

“Coming to Rolling Ridge is always like coming home”

“I feel blessed to have this spiritual oasis in my backyard”

“Attention to detail was great—very ‘homey’”

“A beautiful, quiet, contemplative space where people can gather to learn from each other, look inward and continue to grow together.”
BOOK A RETREAT
Do you belong to a group looking for a place to hold a retreat or conference? Are you looking for a place to hold a staff lunch and planning meeting? Do you want to get away for some rest and renewal?
Come to Rolling Ridge! Call us for your meeting needs. We have a DLP projector available for your PowerPoint presentation; we have WiFi for your computer work; we have quiet space for you to relax. Our staff is trained to meet your needs.
Call 978-682-8815 x11 or email car@rollingridge.org to check availability.

NEW FOR 2008

Intensive Ministry Reflection
with Alban Institute Senior Consultant, Rev. Alice Mann
Choice of:
January 3, March 6, May 1, September 4, November 6
Choose one or more

OASIS: A Spiritual Spa May 12–15

Be sure to check the website, www.rollingridge.org, and upcoming mailings for more information.

POETRY AND CREATION

We invite you to contribute to a new book for Rolling Ridge. It will include poetry about nature and pictures of Rolling Ridge. Poetry can be original or from a favorite poet. The first entry is “When I am Among the Trees” by Mary Oliver. We are looking for a photo of Ridge willow, pine or honey locust trees. Here is a line from the poem, “Around me the trees stir in their leaves and call out, “stay awhile”.

Email our director, Larry Peacock at RevLPeacock@rollingridge.org with poetry suggestions. Come to the Ridge and take pictures.

LOOKING AHEAD!
Mark your calendars for our 2008 events
DAY APART RETREATS and MORE!
February 13 Enneagram Retreat with Herb Pearce
March 11 Food for the Journey with Jim McPhee
April 1 Speech as Practice, Art and Communion With Rev. Victoria Gaskell
April 15 Living Authentically A Retreat on Discernment with Phillip Petree
May 6 Spiritually Centered Leadership with Margaret Benefiel and Judy Proctor

NEW FOR 2008

Intensive Ministry Reflection
with Alban Institute Senior Consultant, Rev. Alice Mann
Choice of:
January 3, March 6, May 1, September 4, November 6
Choose one or more

OASIS: A Spiritual Spa May 12–15

Be sure to check the website, www.rollingridge.org, and upcoming mailings for more information.

THANK YOU TO...
Claire Childress and Ron DelBene for new finger labyrinths
Mark Zablocki, a super high school student who came to work for community service hours and kept showing up for many more weeks.
John and Susan Lewis for making Easter chocolates that we sold at the Easter Egg Hunt
Deborah Ormay for the donation of a new blanket for one of our twin beds.
John Serdensky for shipping our old hymnals to Africa

THANK YOU FROM...
Just a brief note of thanks for hosting the Wednesday Noon Service on March 7th. Nothing but compliments on every aspect—the service, homily, setting, the old hymns and piano—and, especially, the great lunch!

David Edwards
Executive Director
Greater Lawrence Council of Churches

“ON THE FLOOR”
The checkerboard tiles in the entrance way are looking worn out. Years of foot traffic! And, according to one former guest who slid much too fast down the banister, other body parts have impacted the floor. Our new grown up "slider" has sent the first donation toward a new, beautiful, shining tile floor to match the newly painted entrance and hallway.

Flooring also needs to be replaced in the sitting room and dining room. The carpeting has seen years of wear and tear from summer camps, conferences, retreats and activities here at Rolling Ridge. Won’t you help us complete this major portion of our first floor renovations? We are seeking gifts of any amount and would gladly accept memorial gifts toward this project.

To make a donation toward this important renovation, please contact us at 978-682-8815 or donate on-line at www.rollingridge.org. Your donation may even make you part of one of our newly established "Giving Societies".

Help us restore the luster to this once grand estate. Please consider making a donation today.

A WISH LIST

♦ New twin-size mattresses
♦ Roll top chafing dishes
♦ Soup Chafing Dish—Server
♦ A new computer and server
♦ Twin-size blankets
♦ ATV for the grounds
♦ New dressers for the bedrooms
♦ 12 small flower vases for dining room tables
♦ New Washing Machine
♦ Toaster Oven
♦ Chef’s Knives for the Kitchen
♦ Storage containers for food

To make a donation or get more information about our wish list, please contact us at 978-682-8815 or by email at car@rollingridge.org

Are you on our weekly e-mail list?
Each week we send out an email to friends of the Ridge with a brief devotional piece and information about upcoming events. If you’re not currently on our email list but would like to receive this weekly message please email us at car@rollingridge.org

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POETRY AND CREATION

We invite you to contribute to a new book for Rolling Ridge. It will include poetry about nature and pictures of Rolling Ridge. Poetry can be original or from a favorite poet. The first entry is “When I am Among the Trees” by Mary Oliver. We are looking for a photo of Ridge willow, pine or honey locust trees. Here is a line from the poem, “Around me the trees stir in their leaves and call out, “stay awhile”.

Email our director, Larry Peacock at RevLPeacock@rollingridge.org with poetry suggestions. Come to the Ridge and take pictures.
A BIT ABOUT OUR RETREAT LEADERS

We are grateful to have a wide array of gifted and fascinating retreat leaders for our programs.

Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas—Priest Associate of Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst, MA. A writer, retreat leader and spiritual director. Member of the Leadership Council of Religious Witness for the Earth, an interfaith activist network dedicated to public witness in defense of creation.

Linda Douty—Linda Douty is the author of the new, insightful book, How Can I Let Go if I Don’t Know I’m Holding On—Setting Our Souls Free” (Morehouse Press). With a background in TV and theater, she is a gifted retreat leader and engaging speaker. As a spiritual director, having completed her training at Shalem Institute in Washington, D.C., she guides both individuals and groups.

Rev. Victoria Gaskell—Victoria Gaskell is an Elder in the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. As a hospital chaplain, she has served in “acute, chronic and terminal care” settings and in a mental health facility; as a pastor her ministry has been as an interim with congregations who have experienced a traumatic breach with the former pastor. Victoria is a member of the Order of St. Luke, a dispersed order begun in the UMC and open to all, whose members are dedicated to sacramental and liturgical scholarship, teaching and practice.

Donna Johnson—Donna is a trained and certified Life Coach—a graduate of the Coaches Training Institute. She founded Pathworks Coaching and now works with creative individuals, small business owners and “Third Agers” seeking to design a life of purpose, fulfillment and balance.

Rev. Sam Johnson—Sam Johnson has pastored United Methodist churches throughout southern New England. He has taught classes and workshops in such diverse areas as non-violent direct action, congregational transformation, shared leadership in the church, pastoral supervision, the United Methodist polity, and conflict resolution. He has also served as a consultant to churches, been a spiritual director to pastors and been a faculty member and administrator at Boston University School of Theology.

Dr. Jim Manganiello—Dr. Jim Manganiello is the founder of www.MESICSFitness.com. Jim is a psychologist with more than thirty years of dedicated work and practice in the world’s leading spiritual, psychology and contemplative studies.

Judy Proctor—Judy Proctor is a small group facilitator and retreat leader. She has been the Director of Small Group Ministry at the Congregational Church of Topsfield, United Church of Christ. With over ten years experience leading groups and training leaders, Judy’s emphasis is on spirituality and preaching style that resists labels of contemporary or traditional.

Robert Jonas—Robert A. Jonas, Ed.D., M.T.S. is the director of The Empty Bell, a contemplative sanctuary (www.emptybell.org). Trained as a psychotherapist, Jonas is now a retreat leader, author and musician. A Christian in the Carmelite tradition, he has also received spiritual formation with Buddhist teachers.

Rev. Wanda Stahl—A deacon in the United Methodist Church and currently serves as Director of Christian Formation for the New England Annual Conference of the UMC. She is a graduate of the Shalem Institute’s Spiritual Guidance Program. She is also blessed to companion with others on their spiritual journeys as a spiritual director and small group leader.
SUMMER RENEWAL DAYS
9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
A SELF-DIRECTED DAY OF RENEWAL
Use our labyrinths and walking trails
Go kayaking or canoeing
Spend reflection time in our library, meeting rooms or outdoor worship space
Enjoy a leisurely swim (after 3:45 p.m.)
Gourmet Lunch is included
Fee: $35 per person

SUMMER LABYRINTH WALKS
Join Rev. Paul Millin for one (or both) of our Evening Labyrinth Walks this summer. Events will be held from 7:00 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

July 9—Fullness of Joy on the Path of Life
Enjoy an evening of reflecting on times of joy in living, while prayerfully walking a labyrinth.
August 7—Peace in Every Step
Prayerfully participate in a labyrinth walk where peace is in every step, in every breath.

Registration Fee is $15 per event

ROLLING RIDGE will be bustling with activity for two weeks this summer as we host our Junior High and Senior High Camp Weeks and our new Elementary Weekend Retreat. Plans are in place, staff are preparing activities and programs and we’re just waiting for the kids to arrive! If you haven’t registered yet be sure to do so today!! The absolute deadline for registration is JUNE 22!

JR. HIGH WEEK—Directed by Rev. Jeff Hunt
August 7—July 22
$175
July 20—July 22 $175
August 27—August 30 $330

EVENINGS AT THE RIDGE
Drumming returns this Fall!
Once a month, Jane Gossard leads a drum circle at the Ridge. No experience necessary. Bring a drum if you have one or use one of the African drums or rhythm instruments Jane brings.

Monday Nights: September 17
October 15
November 19
7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. drumming
with refreshments afterwards

Sacred Circle Dance
A gentle, simple, prayerful evening with leader Steve Fisher.

Wednesday night, October 24
7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. drumming
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Do you long for a deeper awareness of God’s presence?
Do you wish for a community who prays and cares deeply?

We invite you to sign up for Drawing Near to God an eight month journey of spiritual deepening in a small group setting. Set aside one Saturday morning a month beginning in October 2007 and experience God’s presence through scripture, silence, prayer, and sharing under the leadership of four retreat leaders and spiritual directors.

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD
8:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
8 Saturday mornings beginning October 20, 2007
October 20, November 17, and December 15, 2007
January 19, February 16, March 15, April 19, and May 17, 2008

Registration Fee for entire program: $395

**Please note that the Opening Retreat on October 20, 2007 and Closing Retreat on May 17, 2008 will include lunch and conclude by 1:45 p.m.

To register go to our website, www.rollingridge.org or contact us at 978-682-8815.
A DAY APART FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Come and join us for a day away from the "busyness" of life. "DAY APART" retreats focus on a variety of topics and offer opportunities for spiritual and personal growth.

September 25  Nurturing Spirituality in a 24/7 World  Retreat Leader: Wanda Stahl
Many of us experience constant demands upon our time and energy from our work, our loved ones, our communities – and our own self-expectations. In the midst of this constant activity and these competing priorities how do we listen for the still, small voice of God? How do we nurture and stay grounded in our God-given identity? In what ways can we discern the paths God wishes us to pursue? How do we ensure that (as Wayne Muller challenges readers in his book Sabbath) we are not "doing good badly"?

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Come away for a quiet day with Jesus and one of his favorite topics of conversation and teaching. Money is a potent spiritual and cultural symbol and energy in our lives, and how we relate to it has great impact on our relationships with God, with one another, and with ourselves. What do we tell ourselves and each other about it? What do we really believe about it? What opportunities does God provide for us in our contemplation of money's place in our lives?

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DAY APART RETREATS (continued)

November 6  The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: "Finding God on the Go"  Retreat Leader: Judy Proctor
Are you looking to live a balanced life? Would you like to spend time with God but your calendar is jammed packed with appointments? Does the idea of finding time to add a spiritual practice to your daily routine seem impossible? Trying to maintain a regular spiritual practice that awakens us to the Divine Presence can be a struggle, and many of us give it up as too hard. This retreat will offer an approach to weave a spiritual practice into your daily routine. You will be introduced to a variety of traditional methods that can be transformed into a practical routine that works for you. Through discussions, exercises and reflection, you will find a way to bring a particular practice into your daily life: like singing a Taize chant while you put your laundry in the washing machine, because God is with us even in the laundry room or on the go!

November 20  Christian Meditation: An Ancient Path Comes Alive  Retreat Leader: Robert Jonas
Here in the early 21st century, some ancient practices of Christian meditation are being rediscovered, especially in dialogue with Eastern spiritual paths and with modern psychotherapy. What is the difference between Christian prayer, meditation and contemplation? How is Christian meditation different from Buddhist meditation? What are the benefits for Christians of the Christian-Buddhist dialogue? How do Christian spiritual practices interact with our psychological and emotional lives? What is the difference between healing practices in spirituality and psychotherapy.

Come away in the midst of the busy holiday season for a quiet day with the infant Jesus, to prepare for this fulfillment of our Advent expectation. For at Christmas, "God with us" begins with us as a baby, wrapped in swaddling. What does this image of swaddled baby suggest to us as to how God’s presence begins and reveals itself in our lives? How does this image do point to opportunities for us in our relationship with God and with one another?

All "Day Apart" retreats have a registration fee of $40 for those who register in advance. Registration is $45 at the door. Your registration fee includes a gourmet lunch, snack and all day beverage service. Events run from 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. You can register and pay online using your credit card at www.rollingridge.org. Downloadable registration forms and brochures about each program are also available on our website. For more information, call our Guest Services office at 978-682-8815 x 11 or email us at car@rollingridge.org

COME EARLY...STAY LATE
Consider making one of our DAY APART events into a retreat stay. Come the night before or stay the night after or consider a DAY APART as part of a multiday directed or self-directed retreat. You can even add spiritual direction or a massage to your retreat experience. Call Guest Services at 978-682-8815 to check availability.
BOOK A RETREAT
Do you belong to a group looking for a place to hold a retreat or conference? Are you looking for a place to hold a staff lunch and planning meeting? Do you want to get away for some rest and renewal?

Come to Rolling Ridge! Call us for your meeting needs. We have a DLP projector available for your PowerPoint presentation; we have WIFI for your computer work; we have quiet space for you to relax. Our staff is trained to meet your needs.

Call 978-682-8815 x11 or email car@emailrollingridge.org to check availability.

THE ROLLING RIDGE STORE
Newly designed t-shirts and sweatshirts with the Rolling Ridge logo are now available.
T-shirts are sand colored with the logo screenprinted on the left chest. Hooded sweatshirts are light grey with the logo also on the left chest.

T-shirts are $15 each or 2 for $25  Sweatshirts are $28 each or 2 for $50
Save $3 and buy one of each for $40

Fair Trade Coffee and Hot Cocoa mix from Equal Exchange are also available:
Regular $6.00 per pound  DeCaf $7.00 per pound  Cocoa $5.00 per 12 oz. tub

This fall we’ll also begin selling Rolling Ridge Chocolate Chip Cookies!!!
$6.50 per dozen in a decorative box

To purchase any of our Rolling Ridge or Equal Exchange items contact our office at 978-682-8815 or email us at thestaff@rollingridge.org.

COMPLIMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR RECENT GUESTS
“Thank you for continuing (your programs) I needed it. Thank you for all the hospitality here.”

“This is a place that nurtures my soul.”

“What a positive experience I had at Rolling Ridge. I felt more at peace as I looked forward to my vocational possibilities and more trusting of myself.”

SIGHTLINES—Views from the Director
I am leading a contemplative retreat for the Peninsula Delaware Conference. A friend of mine from the area wrote and asked, “What is a contemplative retreat?” Good question.

We throw the word around sometimes without thinking about the meaning or implications. Her question caused me to stop and reflect. Here is what I wrote:

A contemplative retreat is a conscious turning of the heart toward God and developing a listening stance to hear the “still small voice.” It is not a planning retreat or educational retreat (though you will learn some ways to pray) but rather focuses on being a place and pace for reflecting, resting and dwelling with God. It honors silence and invites sharing of one’s spiritual journey. It is above all a time to deepen prayer.

I hope there are elements of a contemplative stance in all that we do at Rolling Ridge. A turning of the heart. A restful place. An honoring of silence. A different pace. Whether you come for a meeting or weekend retreat, we hope you discover this openness to listen, this treasure of prayer.

You may notice that the pace at a retreat center is different. As Robert Kamm wrote, “technology is forcing Americans to live at speed not at depth.” A retreat slows us down, opens up the depths, and often reveals how tired we are, living at the edges of exhaustion. The late Bruno Bettelheim wrote “Our new yardstick of time tends to be the machine, not the living cell. Our image of time no longer rests on the slow growth of trees, nor in the nine months it still takes before a baby is ready to be born...There are time tables in human development that can only be hurried at a painful and deadening cost. Violence is the behavior of the person who cannot wait.”

I am grateful for the pathways at Rolling Ridge along the shore, through the trees, that readjust my time tables of speed. If I walk too fast I’ll stumble over the uneven ground or miss the chipmunk scurrying under the leaves. I am thankful for times to walk the two labyrinths nestled in the woods, trusting that the circuitous route will take me to the center, a place of contemplation, a turning of the heart toward God.

If your life is moving too fast and you are feeling more like a machine than a human being, I hope you will come to Rolling Ridge and discover a place and pace for reflecting, resting and dwelling with God.

See you at the Ridge,
Larry
SEPTEMBER
17 Drumming for Joy  Leader: Jane Gossard
21 Youth Training Event
23 Day Apart: Nurturing Spirituality in a 24/7 World  Leader: Rev. Victoria Gaskell
27 Program Committee—Proposals due

OCTOBER
9 Day Apart: Dancing on the Gearscope  Leaders: Donna and Rev. Sam Johnson
11 Rolling Ridge Board of Directors Meeting
15 Drumming for Joy  Leader: Jane Gossard
20 Drawing Near to God: An 8 month journey of Spiritual Deepening
23 Day Apart: Eye of the Needle: Money and a Life of Faith  Leader: Dr. Jim Manganiello
24 Sacred Circle Dance  Leader: Steve Fisher
26–28 Holding On? Letting Go!  Leader: Linda Douty
30 Finding Grace Through the Body’s Wisdom  Leader: Susan Lennox

NOVEMBER
2 DESTRESS: Spirit at Work  Leaders: Dr. Margaret Benefiel, Rev. Debora Jackson and Kerry Hamilton
6 The Extraordinary in the Ordinary  Leader: Judy Proctor
15 Listening for the Spirit: A Retreat for Spiritual Directors  Co-sponsored by Kairos Spiritual Life Center, Bethany House of Prayer and Rolling Ridge
17 Drawing Near to God: An 8 month journey of Spiritual Deepening
19 Drumming for Joy  Leader: Jane Gossard
20 Christian Meditation: An Ancient Path Comes Alive  Leader: Dr. Robert Jonas

DECEMBER
8 1st Annual Rolling Ridge Christmas Craft Faire
15 Drawing Near to God: An 8 month journey of Spiritual Deepening

JANUARY
3 Intensive Ministry Reflection  Leader: Alice Mann
19 Drawing Near to God: An 8 month journey of Spiritual Deepening

FEBRUARY
5 Companions on the Way: Howard Thurman  Leader: Herb Pierce
13 Enneagram  Leader: Herb Pierce
16 Drawing Near to God: An 8 month journey of Spiritual Deepening
29 Renewal Day

MARCH
3 Intensive Ministry Reflection  Leader: Alice Mann
11 Food for the Journey  Leader: Rev. Jim McPhie
15 Drawing Near to God: An 8 month journey of Spiritual Deepening

The pillar of the world is hope.
Kanuri Proverb (Nigeria)

FALL 2007 / WINTER 2008 CALENDAR
WE'RE LOOKING FOR CRAFTERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Rolling Ridge will host our first annual CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRE
Saturday, December 8, 2007
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

We hope to make this a wonderful holiday event that will continue for years to come, but we need lots of help to make the efforts a success!! Crafters are needed to rent space for this event. Spaces are $35 each if you provide your own table or $40 if we provide the table. Applications are available online or by calling the office.

We’re also looking for contributions for a silent auction table. If you have a service or item you’d like to donate please let us know. If you’re willing to solicit local businesses to get donations we’d love the help. Please help us publicize this event and make it a huge success! For more information contact Carol Rabs at 978-682-8815 x11.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To JoAnn Carlotto, Guest Services staff at Rolling Ridge, on her election as a lay delegate to the United Methodist General Conference meeting in Texas in May 2008. Also elected was Bonnie Marden, former interim director at Rolling Ridge. Blessings to them and the rest of the New England Conference delegation.

60th ANNIVERSARY

2008 will mark the 60th anniversary of Rolling Ridge serving the church and community. We are looking for stories, names of leaders and campers and favorite memories of days at Rolling Ridge. Do you remember the tornado that passed near the Ridge? Call or email us and watch for coming announcements of special Anniversary events.

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND IN 2008

Join Executive Director, Larry Peacock, on a journey where you will experience the old and the new in the Holy Land. The guided trip, January 15-25, 2008 will include journeys to biblical sites: Mount of Olives, Mount of Beatitudes, Garden of Gethsemane, the Upper Room, Jericho, Garden Tomb and more. Plus opportunities to understand the current cultural and political situation by visiting a Bethlehem school for Christian and Muslim students, the village of Beilin where Bishop Elias Chacour has established a center for peace and learning, the Holocaust Museum and the Beit Arabien Peace House.

Ten days, first class hotels, breakfasts and dinners, deluxe motor coach transportation, guided sightseeing, worship, lectures, entrance fees to sites and roundtrip airfare included. Depart from Boston. $1798

Contact Larry for further information or to get a registration brochure, 978-682-8815 x18 or email him at RevLPeacock@rollingridge.org

THANK YOU TO...

Our Summer Lifeguards for keeping children, youth and adults safe all summer.
Doug Patten, Nicole Estrada, Gavin Lynch, Carolyn Pritash, Liz Cremin and Calvin Han
Staff members now off to college:
Meredith Rabs, Amanda Lewis, Abhay Vatsa, Keri Letourneau and Heather Moulton.
Tim Navien and Christian Ebinger who volunteered time to clean up the labyrinth. Hooray for former youth campers.
Christian and Calvin Ebinger who stayed after Senior High week was completed to help set up for a new group coming in.
Massachusetts Bible Society for a special grant which sent us new Bibles for our programs. We are grateful to them and the youth in our summer programs especially enjoyed using The Message Remix and The New Revised Standard Version.

A WISH LIST

- New twin-size mattresses—extra long
- Roll top chafing dishes
- CD/Tape Boombox
- A new computer and server
- Twin-size blankets
- ATV for the grounds
- New dressers for the bedrooms
- Toaster Oven
- Chef’s Knives for the Kitchen

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“RIDGE ON THE ROAD”

Our Executive Director, Rev. Larry J. Peacock, leads retreats and other spiritual formation events throughout the New England Conference and across the country. His schedule this fall includes:

- A retreat for Brunswick United Methodist Church in Brunswick, ME on September 29–30.
- Leading morning meditation/centering sessions at the School of Congregational Development in Portland, ME. E3 focuses on empower, equip, evangelize.
- Larry is also available as a guest preacher for Sunday morning worship services. Contact Larry at 978-682-8815 x18 or RevLPeacock@rollingridge.org for more information.

NEW GROUPS AT ROLLING RIDGE

We are happy to have welcomed or be welcoming the following new groups to the Ridge.

- Healing Touch Training Workshops
- School Year Abroad Program
- St. Paul’s School Staff Retreat
- Women’s Interfaith Spiritual Encounter
- Drishi Yoga Retreat
- Andover Newton Theological School Traveling Church
- Fidelity House—Lawrence
- St. John the Evangelist Youth Program
- St. John’s Preparatory School Congregation Beth El

We still have many weekday openings for day meetings or overnight retreats. Contact us to schedule a date for your group.
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SUMMER PROGRAM

Our summer program this year was a great success with over 70 children and youth participating in our 3 events.

A new elementary weekend retreat, Peace Tails, was held under the direction of Lori Bergman. Assisting Lori were Jason Bergman, Robin LaForra and Jonathan Stadig. Thanks to Rolling Ridge Board member Kristen Hollenbeck for inspiring and promoting the weekend program.

Junior High Camp was led by Rev. Jeff Hunt. 27 youth enjoyed the week with counselors Rev. John and Rev. Herb Taylor, Rev. Matt Winell, Rev. Bruce Arbour, Rev. Leigh Dry, Jason Bergman and Kim Wright. A special visit by Teen Challenge was a highlight of the week.

Senior High Camp was led by Patti Coffill. 29 campers shared a memorable week with counselors Jen Cannella, JoAnn Carlotto, John Disney, Eric Feustel and Jim Blatchford. Highlights of the week were the annual banquet and talent show and a drumming program led by Jane Gossard. Thank you, also, to the Senior High campers for removing the vinyl stair treads from the main staircase as part of their service project for the week. We look forward to seeing the stairs refinished.

A special word of thanks to our Camp Nurse, Janet Pickles, who was here for all 3 summer program events to ensure the safety and good health of our participants.

Camp weeks for 2008 are:

- Elementary Weekend: July 18-20
- Junior High Camp: July 13-17
- Senior High Camp: August 3-7

YOUTH EVENTS THIS FALL

SEPTEMBER 23  2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.  Youth Leader 101
A training event for Adult Youth Leaders and Events for Youth
This training and rally event will include training for youth leaders, activities for youth, and a pizza supper. We ask that each church bringing youth to this event also bring an additional adult, who won’t attend the training session, to chaperone the youth activities. Leader training will be led by David Burke, Director of Young People’s Ministries for the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association in Ocean Grove, NJ.
Fee: $25 per adult; $15 per youth (maximum $100 per church)
For more information contact Wanda Stahl at Stahl@neumc.org or 978-682-7676 x201

NOVEMBER 4  1:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.  ANNUAL LEAF RAKING
Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we clear the grounds of Rolling Ridge to prepare for winter. Help us by raking the leaves and we’ll provide a pizza supper and a dance afterwards. Bring a rake, your friends and $5 for the Scholarship Fund. Please let us know you’re coming by contacting us at thestaff@rollingridge.org or call 978-682-8815.
Divine, Liverpool, Blackberry Wine, Polished Oak, those are some of the names of the paint colors chosen for the six grand bedrooms of the main house. Each room will receive new window coverings, new paint and new bedding to create a peaceful and distinctive atmosphere centered on the decorative fireplaces. Interior designer, Mary O’Neill has been guiding the renovation. Donations to cover each room are invited or you can adopt a whole room renovation for $1500.

Underneath vinyl stair treads are gorgeous, hardwood steps. Replacing the tile on the first floor, refinishing the steps and putting in new bathroom flooring is part of the flooring project for the main house. $1000 has been contributed toward this project.

We seek your support as we continue the renovations here at Rolling Ridge. You can make a donation online using your debit or credit card by going to our website at www.rollingridge.org. Contributions may also be mailed to us at 660 Great Pond Road, North Andover, MA 01845. Remember all donations to Rolling Ridge are fully tax deductible. Contact us for further information.

Underwrite a Rolling Ridge Program
You or your faith community can underwrite a Rolling Ridge program. Your underwriting can assist us in bringing outstanding leaders or provide scholarships. Call our Director, Larry J. Peacock at 978-682-8815 x18.

Year End Giving
Donations to Rolling Ridge, a non-profit, 501c3 organization, qualify for charitable deduction tax credits. Call us for details.

BEQUESTS—Uncomplicated and Helpful
Bequests are a wonderful, helpful way to make contributions to the mission and ministry of Rolling Ridge. Here is appropriate wording you may include in your will:

A Specific Bequest is one in which you direct a specific amount of cash or a specific asset to be given to Rolling Ridge. Suggested wording for this type of bequest is:

I give and bequeath to Rolling Ridge United Methodist Conference Center, North Andover, MA, the sum of $________ (or specific property) to be used for its general purposes.

A Percentage Bequest is one in which you direct a set percentage of your estate to be given to Rolling Ridge. Suggested wording for this type of bequest is:

I give and bequeath to Rolling Ridge United Methodist Conference Center, North Andover, MA, _________% of my estate to be used for its general purposes.

A Residuary Bequest is one in which you direct that the remainder of your estate be given to Rolling Ridge after all other bequests, debts, and taxes have been paid. Suggested wording for this type of bequest is

I give and bequeath to Rolling Ridge United Methodist Conference Center, North Andover, MA, the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for its general purposes.

For more information about making a bequest to support Rolling Ridge, please contact our Larry Peacock at 978-682-8815 x18 or by email at RevLPeacock@rollingridge.org. If you have already included Rolling Ridge in your estate planning, please let us know so we may thank you!

November 6  The Extraordinary in the Ordinary “Finding God on the Go”  Retreat Leader: Judy Proctor
Are you looking to live a balanced life? Would you like to spend time with God but your calendar is jammed packed with appointments? Does the idea of finding time to add a spiritual practice to your daily routine seem impossible? Trying to maintain a regular spiritual practice that awakens us to the Divine Presence can be a struggle, and many of us give it up as too hard. This retreat will offer an approach to weave a spiritual practice into your daily routine. You will be introduced to a variety of traditional methods that can be transformed into a practical routine that works for you. Through discussions, exercises and reflection, you will find a way to bring a particular practice into your daily life: like singing a Taize chant while you put your laundry in the washing machine, because God is with us even in the laundry room or on the go!

November 20  Christian Meditation: An Ancient Path Comes Alive  Retreat Leader: Robert Jonas
Here in the early 21st century, some ancient practices of Christian meditation are being rediscovered, especially in dialogue with Eastern spiritual paths and with modern psychotherapy. What is the difference between Christian prayer, meditation and contemplation?

How is Christian meditation different from Buddhist meditation? What are the benefits for Christians of the Christian-Buddhist dialogue? How do Christian spiritual practices interact with our psychological and emotional lives? What is the difference between healing practices in spirituality and psychotherapy?

Come away in the midst of the busy holiday season for a quiet day with the infant Jesus, to prepare for this fulfillment of our Advent expectation. For at Christmas, “God with us” begins with us as a baby, wrapped in swaddling. What does this image of swaddled baby suggest to us as to how God’s presence begins and reveals itself in our lives? How does this image point to opportunities for us in our relationship with God and with one another?

All “Day Apart” retreats have a registration fee of $45. Retreats received 2 weeks prior to each event are $40; you save $5. Your registration fee includes a gourmet lunch, snack and all day beverage service. Events run from 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. You can register and pay online using your credit card at www.rollingridge.org. Downloadable registration forms and brochures about each program are also available on our website. For more information, call our Guest Services office at 978-682-8815 x 11 or email us at car@rollingridge.org.

COME EARLY...STAY LATE
Consider making one of our DAY APART events into a retreat stay. Come the night before or stay the night after or consider a DAY APART as part of a multi-day directed or self-directed retreat. You can even add spiritual direction or a massage to your retreat experience. Call Guest Services at 978-682-8815 to check availability.
Do you long for a deeper awareness of God's presence? Do you wish for a community who prays and cares deeply? Are you dragging emotional baggage through your daily life? Do you yearn to lighten your load?

**HOLDING ON? LETTING GO! - A Retreat to Set our Souls Free**

Friday, October 26 through Sunday, October 28

Leader: Linda Douty

Are you dragging emotional baggage through your daily life?

Do you yearn to lighten your load?

Letting go isn’t just saying goodbye to people, places, and things—as important as they may be. It’s also about letting go of attitudes and ideas such as perfectionism, resentment, worry, and judgment—that keep us from being free to grow in our relationships with God and others. Letting go is crucial to our spiritual and emotional health.

Come, spend some time examining the content of baggage you’ve been lugging around and explore specific techniques for letting go, getting free! Have the opportunity to learn from Linda Douty, an insightful author and dynamic leader from Memphis, TN!

The retreat will include presentations, discussion, silence, worship, ritual and personal time. Additional Rolling Ridge services include massage and healing touch (fee based), two outdoor labyrinths and walking paths.

**Registration Fee:**
- Private Room—$350 includes 6 meals and program
- Double Room—$310 includes 6 meals and program
- Commuter Rate—$220 includes 6 meals and program

**CO–SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

This fall we’ll be partnering with three groups to provide two new programs here at Rolling Ridge.

**November 2**

**DE–STRESS: Spirit at Work**

Co–Sponsored by Executive Soul and Rolling Ridge

This is a day for those seeking to capture and engage their spirits at work and to find ways to eliminate stress from their lives. If you yearn to create more balance and meaning in your worklife, if you long to bring your talent, energy and spirit to your work, and to making a difference in the world, this workshop is for you. Retreat leaders will guide participants through ways to nurture and grow spirit at work. Through exercises, personal reflections and group activities participants will learn spirited and practical ways to plant and grow the seeds for minimizing stress, bringing spirit into their lives and into their workplaces.

Retreat Leaders: Dr. Margaret Benefiel, Rev. Deborah Jackson, and Kerry Hamilton

**Registration Fee:** $100—Register by October 19 and save $10

**November 15**

**LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT: A RETREAT FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS**

Co–Sponsored by Kairos Spiritual Life Center, Bethany House of Prayer and Rolling Ridge

The practice of being a spiritual director is an ongoing journey of listening and learning. We continually encounter anew the Spirit as it manifests in the lives of our directees, in the relationship itself, and even in ourselves.

Come to this gathering of spiritual directors designed to feed, nurture, and challenge you as you walk your path. Together, we will share some of our experiences on this journey, listening and learning from ourselves and each other. We will also participate in a workshop designed to stretch our capacity to listen deeply to what is unfolding in the moment.

**Registration Fee:** $45 if you register by October 25 / $50 after October 25

Leader: Life Coach and Zen Master, David Rynick

**FALL RENEWAL DAYS**

9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

A self-directed day of renewal
- Use our labyrinths and walking trails
- Go kayaking or canoeing
- Spend reflection time in our library, common rooms or outdoor worship space
- Free wireless internet access is available
- Gourmet Lunch is included

Fee: $35 per person

For an additional fee of $60 for a 1 hr. service we can arrange Body Therapy Services including therapeutic massage or CranioSacral Therapy

Private Spiritual Direction is also available for a fee of $40.

Please register in advance. Body therapies and spiritual direction are based on availability.

**RENEWAL DAYS ARE AVAILABLE**

Monday through Friday during September, October, November and December

Call us at 978-682-8815 for specific date availability

**DRAWING NEAR TO GOD**

8:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m.**

8 Saturday mornings

beginning October 20, 2007

October 20, November 17, and December 15, 2007

January 19, February 16, March 15, April 19, and May 17, 2008

**Registration Fee for entire program:** $395

**SACRED CIRCLE DANCE**

A gentle, simple, prayerful evening with leader Steve Fisher.

Wednesday Night, October 24

7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. drumming with refreshments afterwards

**DRAWING NEAR TO GOD**

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8 Saturday mornings

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