



Cramer Retreat Center News

1800 Meadow Edge Lane, Spring, TX 77388
Vol. 3, No. 3

281-350-1355

www.CramerCenter.org
January 24, 2010

A Lenten Tradition

Beginning February 15, the Cross Labyrinth will be open Sunday afternoons during Lent. Make plans to walk the cross labyrinth during the Lenten season.

Come alone, with your friends, with your family, or with your small group.

Information about the Cross Labyrinth can be found on the Cramer Retreat Center web-site: www.CramerCenter.org.

Call us to let us know you are coming and we will be waiting for you!



An Encounter with Christ

by Sharon Taylor and Pam Wiggins

So you want to do what...take my kids on a confirmation retreat and the weather is going to be in the teens???? With some of the coldest weather on record, our brave little group grabbed their down filled sleeping bags, tons of fleece blankets, hats, coats, gloves and headed out to Cramer Retreat Center on January 8. Each year, First United Methodist Church-Humble takes their Confirmands on a retreat for some wonderful bonding time. This year we took five (5) adults and four (4) youth. However, our plans for an outdoor obstacle course and s'mores by the fire were definitely put on hold, but we had a wonderful time at Cramer. Our theme for this weekend was "understanding what it meant to be part of the family of God." We started out the evening with an obstacle course inside (tables and couches make very interesting obstacles) where the kids were blindfolded and led by an adult leader who had to guide them through the course without talking. The kids were to agree on the sounds that the adult leader would use for the different possibilities they could encounter while on their blindfolded trek. The kids dubbed their leader one of the worst GPS systems they'd ever seen, but they learned how to depend on each other. Christ asks us to love each other as He loves us and to see each other through His eyes. These kids exemplified Christ's message as they embraced a special needs child into their family. We were truly impressed with the way they demonstrated care for each other and made sure that everyone was a valued member of the family. We saw God's love in action in each of these kids.

The Cramer Retreat Center is the perfect place for a retreat of any kind. It is truly a place where God meets you just as you are, just where you are and just how you are. We would like to say thank you to the staff of Cramer Retreat Center for providing a wonderful facility for us to have our confirmation retreat.

Why Retreat?

"Retreats are characterized by leaving behind the regular rush and demands of everyday work and family life to come to a place apart where encounters with God, with others in community, and creation are possible. These encounters put the emphasis on the interconnection and relatedness of all of life. Through retreat experiences, participants have the time and space to reflect on scripture, pray, enjoy the company of one another, and rejoice in the beauty of God's creation. The result of these times away is a renewal of faith and commitment to Jesus Christ."

-Nancy Ferguson and Kevin Witt, "The Retreat Leader's Manual," 2006



Up Coming:

Spring Time Work Days

Many schools are now encouraging students to earn community service hours. If your students are looking for ways to earn hours, then, Cramer can help!

On weekdays when your school district is not holding classes, you can bring your group to Cramer for the whole day or for an hour.

We always have projects!

Call to set up your day and time!

Nanette Radke 281-350-1355

Wish List

The Cramer Retreat Center is a place for people to encounter God. To keep it affordable, we need your help with improvements. There are many needs both inside the houses and Well House and outside on the grounds.

The area of greatest need at this time is the interiors of the houses. Here are some suggestions:

Kitchen equipment and utensils

Window treatments

Bathroom accessories

Living room furniture

- **Sofa**
- **2 chairs**
- **Love seat**
- **Mattresses (NEW Mattresses will be delivered on Jan. 26!)**
- **Round wooden table (60" with leaves)**
- **4 light weight white folding tables (6')**
- **5 light fixtures**

Need a Project?

Does your group need a mission project? Come for an hour or a day, there are always things for the community to do at the Cramer Retreat Center. If your group is looking for a local mission project, give us a call!

We love have had teams come out to work a few hours and then enjoy a few hours of rest.

Could your group help us with...

- Painting
- Yard clean up
- Brush clearing
- Minor maintenance and repairs
- Prayer Path building
- Planting
- Enhancing the Prayer Garden
- Fishing Pier
- Fire Pit

We have had boy scouts, girl scouts, women's organizations, men's groups, singles groups, Sunday school classes, confirmation classes, youth groups, choirs, families, and many other kinds of groups come out for work and fun.

What would your group like to do?

Cramer Calendar

- * Jan. 8 – 9 **FUMC – Humble Confirmation Retreat**
- * Jan. 15 – 16 **Bering Memorial UMC Church Council Leadership Retreat**
- * Jan. 18 **Kingwood UMC Staff Lenten Planning Retreat**
- * Jan. 22 – 24 **Grace UMC (Baytown) Youth Spiritual Journey Retreat**
- * Jan. 29 – 30 **Hope Episcopal Church Vestry Retreat**
- * Feb. 1 - 3 **Resurrection Lutheran Church Executive Staff Retreat**
- * Feb. 4 - 5 **Crosspoint Church Nexus Ladies Leadership Retreat**
- * Feb. 12 – 13 **Bay Harbour UMC Confirmation Retreat**
- * Feb. 20 – 21 **Cornerstone UMC Confirmation Retreat**
- * Feb. 27 **St. Paul UMC (Spring) Officer Training Retreat**
- * March 3 – 5 **New Beginnings House of Prayer Centering Prayer Retreat
(Open to the public with reservation through www.newbeginningsprayer.org)**
- * March 20 **Cypress Creek Christian Church Lenten Retreat**
- * March 27 **Conroe First UMC Stephen Ministry Retreat**
- * April 9 – 10 **Atascocita UMC Confirmation Retreat**
- * April 23 – 25 **League City UMC Confirmation Retreat**
- * April 30 – May 1 **Deer Park UMC Confirmation Retreat**
- * May 18 **Spring Woods UMC UMW “Spiritual Growth”**
- * May 21 – 22 **Friendship UMC UMW “Spiritual Growth”**

Visit Cramer Retreat Center online at
<http://www.CramerCenter.org>
to request a date for your group!

News around the church
from United Methodist News Service – www.umns.umc.org



Working to keep you connected

<http://umns.umc.org>

Articles on spiritual formation and retreat ministries.

Spiritual Discipline

by Chris Radke

What is a spiritual discipline? There are many definitions. According to the editors of *The Life with God Bible*, “A Spiritual Discipline is an intentionally directed action by which we do what we *can* do in order to receive from God the ability (or power) to do what we cannot do by direct effort.” Others describe spiritual disciplines as habits or regular patterns in our lives that repeatedly bring us back to God and open us up to what God is saying to us. Prayer is a discipline. Study is a discipline. Worship is a discipline. And there are many more. A common thread is that they involve intentional actions by us that seek or facilitate God’s presence and work in or through us. Our disciplined actions can have eternal implications because when God works in us, the effects are everlasting. When we pray to the Lord, God continues to work even after “Amen.” When we study the Bible, God’s word continues to speak to us even after the book is closed. And when we worship the King, God’s glory continues to surround us even when we leave the sanctuary.

What disciplines are you exercising? What disciplines will you begin? More importantly, how will you open yourself to God’s work in your life?

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