

The Road to Bethlehem: An Advent Planning Retreat for Clergy

We invite clergy and church staff to come on retreat together in a peaceful mountain setting as a way to prepare for Advent. Join colleagues as we study the Advent texts, bounce ideas off one another, and plan for a meaningful Advent season in our congregations. The retreat will provide structured and free time as well as group discussion and personal reflection. Our lodging, meals, and sessions will be at the Boger site of Johns River Valley Camp which boasts comfortable, modern accommodations and a beautiful meeting space. Come as a staff or an individual to breath in the mountain air and prepare to follow the road to Bethlehem.

JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP

Our Schedule ... October 29-31, 2008

Wed. Oct. 29:	1:00-6pm	Arrive and settle in
	6:00pm	Dinner
	7:30-9pm	Opening session: The Road of Repentance, Isaiah 64:1-9
Thurs. Oct. 30:	9:00am	Breakfast
	10:00-11am	Morning session: The Road of Proclamation, Mark 1:1-8
	12:00pm	Lunch
	2:00-3pm	Afternoon session: The Road of Joy, Luke 1:47-55
	6:00pm	Dinner
Fri. Oct. 31:	7:30-9pm	Evening session: The Road of Promise, Luke 1:26-38
	9:00am	Breakfast
	10:00-11am	Closing and Worship

Our Sessions, facilitated by Rev. Carla Gregg (Assoc. Pastor, Pilgrim UCC, Durham)

Friday Opening session: The Road of Repentance, Isaiah 64:1-9

In this opening session we will be led in a Bible study of Isaiah where we note the places it touches our own lives and explore the ways it might inform our Advent planning.

Thursday Morning session: The Road of Proclamation, Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist came preaching in the Wilderness and sometimes it still feels that way. This session will examine aspects of Advent preaching.

Thursday Afternoon session: The Road of Joy, Luke 1:47-55

Mary's song, the Magnificat, is a beautiful poem of praise. We will let her words seep into our own souls and survey the songs and prayers of Advent.

Thursday Evening session: The Road of Promise, Luke 1:26-38

In our final session we will discuss the question, "How can we live into the Advent promise of Jesus birth (again)?"

In addition to our structured times together there are ample opportunities for personal reflection, staff meetings, enjoyment of nature, and conversations with other clergy. Please Join Us!

2008 Road to Bethlehem: Clergy Advent Planning Retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail address (if online) _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Local Church _____ / Church Location (town) _____

Reg. Fee: \$30.00 *non-refundable deposit [unless event is canceled] of amounts listed below*

Enclosed: \$ _____ *(Lodging preference figure represents total retreat fees)*

Lodging preference: _____ \$117.00 / person (@ 2 or 3 / room) _____ \$157.00 / person (@ 1 / room if available)

Physical / Diet restrictions / comments: _____

Use back side (or attach sheet) for additional remarks, including specific notes regarding lodging. Return completed form with \$30.00 registration fee payable to "Johns River Valley Camp," and mail to 1055 Niley Cook Road, Blowing Rock, NC 28605 by October 15. Call (828-264-1516) or e-mail (stumb@boone.net) if you find yourself pushing the deadline. Thanks!

SHALOM!

www.jrvc.org



Caring for God's Creation

A Fall Foliage Retreat

October 20-22, 2008

JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP

Retreat Description

Choose autumn in the Johns River Valley to appreciate and celebrate the goodness and glory of God's Creation! Relax and recharge spiritually; experience the elements of earth, air, water and sunshine along with the Spirit of the Living Christ. Regain a childlike sense of awe and reverence for God's Creation in order to fulfill our Biblical mandate to be good stewards of the Earth. Discover ingredients for a "Green Congregation." Study scripture (based on the book *Serve God, Save the Planet* by J. Matthew Sleeth MD), embark on an area field trip, claim free time, worship Taize style, gather to sing around a campfire, and break bread together.

Facilitator: Rev. Steve Halsted

Rev. Steve Halsted is pastor at Community UCC in Raleigh, NC. Rev. Halsted presently serves with the NC Interfaith Power and Light, a program of the NC Council of Churches and is representative to the NC Climate Action Planning Committee for the state as it seeks to respond to the issues of Global Warming. He has been involved in outdoor ministries since 1986 when he was ordained in the Mass. Conference and has led many spiritual growth retreats in a variety of settings.

Schedule

- Monday, Oct.20: Arrive between 1:00-5:00 pm, settle in, and enjoy the Johns River setting prior to a 6:00 pm dinner.
- Tuesday, Oct. 21: Day includes a field trip to nearby Wilson Creek, a stream which in the year 2000 was added to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Enjoy fall foliage amidst this unique Pisgah National Forest setting, and explore historic remnants suggesting hints of a once flourishing community.
- Wednesday, Oct. 22: Depart around 11:00 am.

SHALOM!

www.jrvc.org

2008 "Caring for God's Creation" Fall Foliage Retreat

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Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail address (if online) _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Local Church _____ / Church Location (town) _____

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