

September 15, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

God has blessed us so wonderfully this past several days with some of the nicest weather of the summer. An occasional breeze only barely disturbs the glassy surface of the entire lake. We can watch fish jump and see the ripples go out 50 to a hundred yards. Water temps are such that it is still pleasant to jump off of the pontoon from the 80 degree air into 70 degree water. Leaves are turning and a few are dropping so the entire Island is absolutely beautiful. We hope you'll join us soon.

We're hoping that you'll join us for our **Open House at Christ Serve Ranch** this Sunday. The property that we hope to purchase is on County Hiway 5, north of Clitheral and south of County Hiway 16. There will be signs and markers. This is your way to show support of our efforts to move forward on our programs of Creation-Science and to find out more about this great piece of property.

Upcoming events: This weekend we're hosting the **Parish Nurse** retreat, a confirmation retreat and another congregation retreat. Next weekend we'll have our Autumn Adventure, **Wives of Parish Professionals**, and a Mary Kay Retreat. One event you'll want to sign up for is our Marriage Retreat coming October 23-25. We've attached some bulletin and newsletter inserts for several upcoming events.

We enjoyed our visitors from **Appleton** last week. It was a beautiful day for the LWML and husbands who joined us. They enjoyed tours, a pontoon ride, and an excellent Bible study. We'd love to have your group join us for a day. The best days of the fall are still coming.

Summer 2010 plans continue to develop. Some significant dates to get on your schedule include **"Preparing for College"** weekend June 11-13; **"Teaching Your Family About Creation"** Family weekend June 18-20; Family week July 4-9; **"The Biggest Ever Week of Camp"** July 18-23; Family Week August 1-6; Our Quilt Auction on August 7; Our all **staff (and volunteer) reunion** on August 6; and our Mission Festival on August 8.

Do you have a teen in your life that would like to someday be on staff at camp? They should attend our **Christ Serve Leadership Training** in October (14-18) or December (27-30).

The Lay Leadership and Elder Retreat scheduled for this weekend has been rescheduled tentatively for March 5-7, 2010. More information will be coming out in the near future.

Are you retired and looking for something to do for a day? We need wood cut. Give Marvin a call to help us with that or any of a number of other things. We are also looking for volunteer teamsters to help us with our horse and wagon program. We're looking for people who would like to learn how (or may know how) to harness and drive our team

with our new wagon. This would be for rides during the week and for parades during the summer. We hope to have at least 3 teams of 2 men and/or women who can help us out. Give Marvin a call if you are interested in finding out more.

For the latest on **Christ Serve Ranch/Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center**, be sure to subscribe to our Wednesday e-news by going to www.christserveranch.org and signing up. You'll find out lots of information about things happening in nature, creation and life issues in the news, and the latest creation programs planned at camp.

Question and Answer:

Question: Are you going to have Christmas dinners again this year?

Answer: Yes we are. We have them scheduled for December 6, 11, 12, 13, and 20. We are working on lining up the entertainment for the events and hope to publicize the dinners soon. The dinners are a great way for a couples from a congregation to enjoy some time together or for individuals or families to enjoy the Island. We hope to have our new wagon ready to go (with runners if there is snow).

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Learn more about our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at www.christserveranch.org.

"Building Christ-centered programs and facilities for you, your children, and your children's children."

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