

Christ in the Wilderness

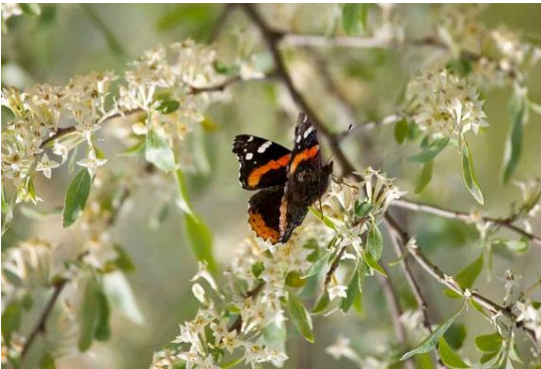
Hermitage Retreat Center

Summer July 2012

Our mission is to provide an environment that is conducive to silence, solitude, prayer and reflection.

Retreatant Jottings...

My first time here. This trip was a Mother's Day gift from my daughter. It has been a wonderful experience. God's world and all of God's creatures here are blessings to behold.



I pray and give thanks for the people who made this place possible and open to all. The beauty and peace and the closeness

to nature are healing and uplifting. I am a five year cancer survivor and have come to understand the importance of coming away and drawing closer to God. While here I read in a book about people in an African tribe greeting each other by one saying, "I see you." And the other replying, "I am here". They are rejoicing to be on earth together.

Praise God and God's blessing to all who come here.

CK June 2012

Praying for those who have come before me and for you who come after me.

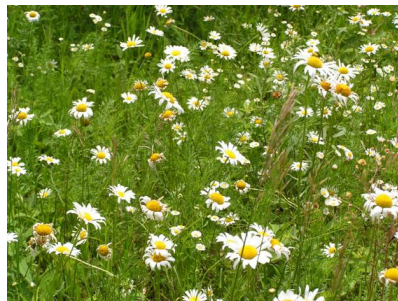
Be in God's time here; leave all worries, thoughts, to-do lists, and "should have's" and "ought to's" behind.

Revel in God's beautiful creation!!!!

General Tips:

1. The daisies are in bloom. Pick some and put in one of the vases here (they will perk up in water).

2. The deer start to come out to play and feed around 7:30 pm. Go down to the gazebo early for a good seat. Use bug repellent!



Listen to the continual symphony God has provided, full of woodwinds and reeds (bird song), brass (mourning doves,

owls, and the occasional cow), strings (the wind) and percussion (crickets, frogs, the leaves). How I will miss this!

I have been blessed in my time here. I pray blessings for you, too.
LJB May 2012

I am 65 and soon to be 66 on June 21st. What a blessed life I have lived---I am very healthy and God only knows when I will be called home. There have been Bumps in the Journey of Life, but our God has always been reaching out to pull me back to the Light. I decided to come to CITW because of a neighbor and his shared experience. Much peace and introspective prayer--a time of union with our God.

Live the life you love!! For as long as you have.

BB May 2012

In The Wilderness...

Well, we had an early spring and things started growing rapidly here at CITW. However, the lack of significant snow and rain this past winter and spring has created dry conditions, as many of you also experience. The grass paths don't look the greatest with the lack of moisture, but the retreatants are still enjoying traversing across the wilderness. We will end the fiscal year this month just a few days short of 70% occupancy for the year. That is great, and we hope even more retreatants come next year!

As you read in the retreatant jottings, some of our retreatants have come because of a gift given to them by a former retreatant or after hearing of the experience from a friend. I always say, "You are CITW's best advertisement," so continue to spread the word.

We are now using Constant Contact as our provider for our emails. This is an easy way to share information with a friend, coworker or family member. If I do not have your email address, let me know and I will put you on the email list. If you need flyers to give to someone, let me know. I can send as many as you need. Perhaps you belong to a group and would like to share about CITW with them. I can send you some flyers or even come and speak to your group, if that is what you would like.

Some upgrades and additions have been taking place

here also. New mattresses in all the hermitages are one of those upgrades, so I hope you will be resting well when you come to visit. A small free-standing shelf unit has been put under the bathroom sink



to hold all of your toiletries and other items that you use while you are staying here. John Jankowski and Pat Harrington spent many hours staining the gazebo and free-standing porch swing this spring. They look great and should be good for several years again.

Lori & Dan Ertmer donated a split rail fence that they took down from their yard. We needed a few extra split rail posts, and those were donated by Spahn and Rose lumber company in Stockton. With these items in hand, John, Pat, Joe and I went about the task of getting them in the ground at the entrance to the upper meadow at the top of the main path to the meadow.

They look great and remind us of the farmstead history of CITW.

We have also been planting more prairie plants in the upper meadow. Many of the invasive plants are being removed in order to provide a better environment for the prairie plants to grow. However, the process is not without it's challenges. Because of the lack of rain, we have spent many hours watering the little plants to keep them growing. The other challenge is to keep the critters from digging up the new plantings. The animals smell the freshly dug soil and are looking for grubs and other bugs to eat. So we have to go back and check on the plants to keep them in the ground. The exciting thing is that we also see some of the prairie plants coming back and growing well that were planted years ago. We also discovered some beautiful Jack in the Pulpits that were not planted by us, so, "Thanks, God, for your gifts."



If you are looking for retreat time, we still have a few opening in July. There also are more days available later in the summer, and into fall months. Give me a call. God be with you. Peace, Sr. Julia

Save the Date:

Strings of Faith Christmas Concert and Fundraiser

December 9, 2012
Join us on Sunday afternoon for a beautiful concert by Strings of Faith. We will be taking up a free will offering for the concert.

Invite your family and friends to come to rejoice in the beauty of song before Christmas. In addition to the concert, we will be having a silent auction, bake sale and mystery gifts that will make the afternoon a fun one. What better



way to get some of those gifts you need for "the hard to buy for" person! Refreshments will be served after the concert as well. Join us for a great day. Visit with friends and celebrate the season.



Auction Items

We are accepting items to be included in our Silent Auction on December 9, 2012. If you would like to donate or would like to solicit items for CITW. Call me for more information.

Have you thought of remembering us?

- When you are making your will and are thinking about charitable bequests, have you ever thought about including Christ in the Wilderness? This would help us immensely in the future as we might continue our retreat ministry.
- Or you could think of some other form of giving to us, such as a charitable remainder trust or a monthly giving program.
- Our legal title and address are
Christ in the Wilderness
7500 S. Randecker Road
Stockton, IL 61085-8922

We are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.