



Laity Connections

A PUBLICATION OF LAITY LODGE AND THE H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION

The Cody Center Opens, Enlarges What God Can Create Through Us

by Cyra S. Dumitru
Contributing Editor



Cody Center at Laity Lodge

Accompanied by the sounds of violin, piano, guitar, and voice floating above the Frio River as well as the visual feast of creations in pottery, iron, wood, silk, and other mediums, the Cody Center at Laity Lodge was opened officially over the Memorial Day weekend. More than 300 people attended the dedication ceremonies.

"Today I am awash with gratitude to all of you whose gifts have made this glorious day possible," said Howard E. Butt, Jr., president of the H. E. Butt Foundation, on Saturday,

May 30, as he addressed those gathered to celebrate the new multipurpose creativity center.

"We are called to be co-creators with God: to create beauty, to enjoy beauty, affirm and present beauty. This unique and beautiful space expands our horizons as co-creators and gives us deeper roots. The Cody Center will give us more space for small group discussions, provide improved staging for all manner of the arts as well as multimedia programs, and give artists spaces where they can work and inspire others."

Built near the tennis courts and just below where the Frio River spills over the dam, the natural rock and wood Center encompasses several buildings and an amphitheater. The main building provides a conference/concert space that can seat up to 160, a kitchen, and two multipurpose centers. Connected by walkways are two studios designed with the specific needs of artists in mind. Large windows and high ceilings in all the buildings allow an abundance of natural light. The elements of stone, wood, and earth tones intermingle to produce a soothing influence. Leading from the Cody Center down the hillside to the riverbank is a lovely terraced walkway which incorporates a series of stone benches. This shaded, naturally sculpted area can function as an amphitheater as well as provide an informal pathway toward the songs of the river and the layered face of the canyon.

Because of careful acoustical planning, the main building serves as an excellent concert hall, among other purposes. This quality of the Cody Center was featured prominently during the dedication weekend

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Cody Center at Laity Lodge art studios

while performing artists from around the nation celebrated through song and concerts by Juilliard Dean Stephen Clapp, retired Indiana University Dean Charles Webb, and other distinguished musicians (see below). Artists specializing in iron-smithing, woodworking, copper enameling, jewelry making, bird carving, painting, ceramics and pottery were also demonstrating or exhibiting their work.

Tribute to Bill Cody

“It is a privilege to have the Center named for Bill. I know that he would love it. This is a holy space,” said Betty Anne Cody, the widow of Bill Cody, Laity Lodge’s revered

former executive director. A center like this one, that is designed to nurture creativity, sets us free. The Cody Center gives comfort, and in comfort we can listen to and experience the presence of God.”

Director of Laity Lodge from 1965-1980, Bill Cody established many of the programs which have become central to the ministries of the H. E. Butt Foundation. It was Bill Cody who first envisioned Creativity Weeks, week-long contemplative retreats, the Quiet House, and implementation of the youth camps.

Continued Betty Anne, “Bill understood that creative activities activate a different part of our minds. They help create a space within us

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.*

Psalm 100:1-2 (NRSV)

that allows for spiritual growth. This was his own experience. Participating in the creative arts expanded Bill’s own spiritual life during his years here as administrator. He wanted others to experience this growth during the retreats at Laity Lodge.”

Kathryn Cody told the group, “When my father discovered the deep spiritual impact of the arts and designed the Creativity Weeks, he dreamed that a building such as this one might someday become a reality. The Cody Center fulfills one of my father’s many grand and noble visions. He taught us to be open to expanding our faith with a tender, caring heart. I am inspired by the fact that in the later decades of his life, my father discovered that even in molding mud on a pottery wheel, we offer glory to God. The artist within him was able to throw pots. As his hands became messy with mud, his spirit soared with childlike glee. And I recall how he often reminded my

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Performing Artists Who Participated in the Dedication Ceremony:

- Darrell Adams (guitar/voice), Stephen Clapp (violin), Letha Crouch (piano), Jeannette Clift George (actress), Mary Irwin (violin), Stanley Irwin (voice) and Charles Webb (piano)

Visual Artists Who Participated in the Dedication Ceremony:

- Roy Bellows (ironsmithing), Kathleen Edwards (clay molding), Robert Feuge (woodworking), Claudia Feuge (water color), Ginger Geyer (ceramics), Rob Grimes (pottery), Mark Haworth (oil painting), Brenda Kingery (oil painting), Jim Morris (jewelry making), Terry Puckett (copper enameling), Marcus Rogers (bird carving), and Sharon Templeton (portraits)

Some Thoughts from Howard E. Butt, Jr. . . .

by Howard E. Butt, Jr.

How do you like the new name and look of the Foundation's newsletter? The name *Laity Connections* better conveys our goal of keeping in touch with you than did *newsbriefs*. While we were at it, we also updated the layout and type style to make it more readable. Finally, there are some new features and columns for your enjoyment and education. If you have any comments or suggestions about these changes, please contact Keith Mirrer, Director of Communications, at (830) 792-1235 or send him an e-mail at kmirrer@hebuttdn.org.

This is an exciting time in our ministries. It is a time of great innovation and forward movement. We've grown in staff, buildings, and programs at an astounding rate. While the growth is astounding, it has been timely and well managed. This is all possible because of the leadership team that assists me.

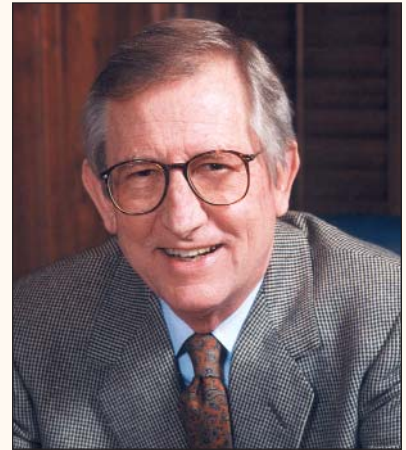
The word "innovation" comes from the Latin word *innovare* meaning "to renew." And that word, renew, is at the heart of our mission:

The renewal of society through
the renewal of the Church;
Church renewal through renewal
of the family;
Family renewal through renewed
individuals.

All of this happens through our primary focus, the theology of the laity. Renewal always involves change and carries within it our

greatest potential. This is certainly true for the Christian. We are called to be born anew, repent, and turn away from our former selves, more fully into our newness. We are continually called to renewing ourselves in Christ. It is not always fun at the moment, but it always turns out better for us. We emerge as new creatures; more vibrant, more integrated, more invigorated, and more alive. When we alter our lives to fit into God's plan, we discover a new and exciting part of ourselves; we are made whole. Change is a major player in our daily lives too. We change attitudes (ours and others), get promoted, change jobs, and constantly improve the way we do things through innovation.

With Laity Lodge Associate Director Eddie Sears' recent announcement that he will retire at year's end to become more involved in local Kerrville issues and to spend more time with his family, we have been asked, "Does all this signal a change in the direction of Laity Lodge?" A simple, straightforward question deserves the same kind of answer: NO! Although Eddie's decision will require some personnel changes, Laity Lodge is committed to serving Christ and His Church through the theology of the laity in the same ways it always has. The nearly impossible task of replacing Eddie is in process. He is a strong example of servant leadership for all of us.



BY PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY

Howard Hovde will remain as Executive Director Emeritus but will lead fewer retreats so that he and Carole can travel and spend more time with their grandchildren.

Eddie and Howard have played a major role in the success of Laity Lodge. They built upon a solid foundation left to them by those who came before. Now they are leaving their edifice foundation for us, and we will miss them. But with new people come new ideas, new abilities, and new relationships—all to add to a more magnificent service for the Kingdom of God, which is both now and coming. And, by our Lord's grace, that now and coming Kingdom quality will continue to characterize the Laity Lodge future.

Look for a more complete celebration of Howard Hovde's and Eddie Sears' 19 years of marvelous accomplishments at Laity Lodge in the next issue of *Laity Connections*.

Join us as we celebrate our rich heritage of renewal. We give thanks and praise to those who helped build this work dedicated to Christ. Our hope is to build on the excellence of those who have contributed so much, and we rejoice in the future that is before us.

Laity Lodge Youth Camp

by Kevin Mayne, LLYC Director
e-mail: kmayne@llyc.org

As I write this article, my daughter Kaitlin is experiencing her first day as a third grader. As I drove her to school and walked her to the classroom, I asked her how she was feeling. We talked about the lunch menu, the new additions on the playground, her teacher, about her new backpack, and the parking problem on opening day. I could tell she was a little nervous, and when we arrived at her classroom, she shook hands with her teacher and walked into the classroom of 22 students. I anxiously watched from the hallway to see what would happen next. What I observed was her anxiety disappear. As she went to her assigned desk, she greeted new friends and hugged her best friends. Kaitlin's peace came through knowing she was among friends. Her second grade relationships were still there! They were all she needed.

It is hard for me to believe the summer is over. In my mind I can clearly see each of the opening days at camp where we all congregated in



the field above the river entrance enjoying hot dogs and cold drinks. There were some powerful reunions there between campers, parents, and counselors. Then there were some anxious campers and some anxious parents. I love the anticipation of

everyone on the first day of camp. One of those opening days, Frog Sullivan and I were making observations about all the relationships going on in that field. It was a beau-



tiful thing to watch. Frog said it's been that way at Laity Lodge Youth Camp for 33 years. You've heard and read it, LLYC really does believe in a relational style of ministry.

Jesus is our model of relational ministry. Take, for instance, the Luke 19 passage where the tax collector named Zaccheus encountered Jesus. Zaccheus was notorious for adding to his wealth at the expense of others. For some reason, he had a burning curiosity to know more, or at least catch a glimpse of, this man named Jesus. You probably know the story of him climbing up in a tree to see Jesus and how Jesus called him by name and went with him to his house for dinner. Conversion and salvation came to that house on that very day through a relationship with Jesus. They broke bread together. They made friends. Lives were changed.

The summer memories that burn so brightly in my heart are all results of relationships. We have the luxury

of having your kids for one or two weeks. Our objective is to love kids however they arrive at camp. We want to form a real relationship with them. We want to be friends. We want to understand their hurts and fears. We want to share in their love for life. And when we've broken bread with them and as Frog says it—"won the right to be heard," then we want to share with them the Bread of

Life. We want them to know what a relationship with Jesus Christ can offer them.

I've seen and heard so many accounts of where and how that happened this summer. Relationships of integrity really do make a difference. I hope every one of the 1,230 campers went home having experienced true friendship and acceptance. I hope every kid went home feeling affirmed and loved. And just like the Zaccheus passage, I pray every camper has either caught a glimpse, burned with curiosity, renewed their friendship, or encountered a new relationship with Jesus. Ultimately, it is in that relationship with Christ where real peace, joy, contentment, esteem, healing, and adventure is found. Kaitlin is discovering it, Zaccheus found it, Frog and I know it, our staff believes it, and many of our campers are walking into school today in a love relationship with our God. How sweet it is!

Quick Takes

Unsung Heroes

- The Laity Lodge kitchen staff (Florence Rasco, Mary Jane Crenshaw, Luz Lopez, Kathy Goines, Joe Navarro) prepare and serve almost 23,000 meals yearly.
- The Laity Lodge housekeeping staff (Linda Hortness, Dora Canales, Patsy Jones, Veda Goines, Faye Kirkland, Sheila Padgett) make up 6,000+ beds a year.
- The maintenance crew at the H. E. Butt Foundation Camp (Willis Adair, Hugh Buchanan, Gabe Longoria, Rudy Gonzalez, Rodolfo Gonzalez, Juan Ortiz, Noe Salazar, Hugh Schneemann) routinely keep 1,500 light bulbs burning, plumbing working in 120 bathrooms, maintain 200 acres of developed grounds, and keep six commercial kitchens functioning!

Web site News

- Our Web site had more than 1,600 visitors in August.
- Find a "Picture Tour of Laity Lodge" from our home page at www.hebuttdn.org
- Laity Lodge retreat schedules, information and maps of the camps, Laity Lodge Youth Camp information, and other items about the H. E. Butt Foundation in general are on the Web site.
- In the future, picture tours of the camp facilities will be added. Other things are in the planning stages to make our site more interactive and useful. We welcome your suggestions, and you can contact Dan Roloff at droloff@laitylodge.org or by phone at (830) 792-1223.



We are very excited to announce that the Youth Camp's "new" secretary is their "old" secretary, Gena Campbell. The timing of Gena's return to Kerrville seems providential, and the entire staff is delighted to have Gena back at her desk.

Just the Facts

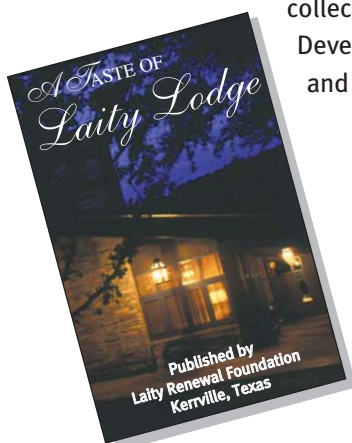
- From June 11, 1998 to June 11, 1999: Laity Lodge had 2,404 guests at 46 retreats. Laity Lodge Youth Camp had 1,230 campers. Foundation Facility Camps had 21,098 campers.

A new series by Howard E. Butt, Jr.

We are announcing a new multi-volume series by Howard Butt entitled *Renewing the Spirit, Healing the Soul*. The books are based on material from Howard's latest book *Renewing America's Soul* in an extended format with contributions from other writers. Volume one, *A Healthy Understanding of Ourselves*, has contributions from biblical scholar Dale Bruner and theologian J. I. Packer.

This series is being offered as a direct-mail piece. If you haven't received your offer through the mail, call (800) 945-2489 for more information.

A Wonderful Christmas Gift ... *A Taste of Laity Lodge*



Through the years, we have received many requests for our recipes. *A Taste of Laity Lodge* is a collection of favorite recipes from the Laity Lodge kitchen, our guest program participants, Resource Development Council members, and the Foundation staff. It is accented throughout with pictures and quotes that will bring you home to Laity Lodge.

Laity Lodge Bookstore • P. O. Box 290670 • Kerrville, TX 78029-0670

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Behind the Scenes of the Foundation Camps

by Cyra S. Dumitru
Contributing Editor

“G od speaks in so many different ways to adults and to children. I believe the experience of seeing the stars, seeing a campfire light up the night, canoeing along a peaceful

ing experiences for children who otherwise would never have such an opportunity.

Forty-five years later, this vision is a full-fledged reality. More than 20,000 people a year from qualified



Camper

river, and maybe even catching a fish – all of this in a safe and loving environment can be life changing, especially for city children” says Gary Cochrane, who has served as Camp Director of the H. E. Butt Foundation Camps for nearly a decade.

The H. E. Butt Foundation Camp program lies at the heart of the Foundation’s original vision and ongoing mission. In 1954, Mary and Howard Butt, Sr., purchased the 1,900-acre Wolfe Ranch (now the site of Laity Lodge and five camps) with the purpose of providing free camp-

church and community-service (non-profit) groups enjoy the pleasures of camping free of charge at the Foundation camps. Overseeing this part of the Foundation ministry are

... The beauty all around us helps us see the beauty in others as well as ourselves. And maybe that’s all we need—to recognize the greatness in everything and everyone around us. Thanks so much.

Camper

Cochrane and a small full-time staff. Cochrane describes his two Assistant Camp Directors, Hugh Schneemann, and Gabe Longoria, as “indispensable, my two right hands.” Based in the Foundation business office in Kerrville is Registrar Lyn DeVille. Says Cochrane, “Lyn is wonderful, very caring. Her ministry takes place over the telephone. She is the first

point of contact for our groups, handling registration and essential paperwork, managing a two-year calendar, and generally tracking as many as 300 groups at a time.”

Cochrane also regards Director of Operations Glenn Echols (who supervises maintenance and ground crews) as a vital part of the camp team. “One of the blessings for me in working this job is my relationship with Glenn. Together, and with our exceptional staffs, we have managed some challenging situations, such as updating and renovating all five campsites in the course of four years. In 1998, we drained and dredged the lake outside of Laity Lodge for the first time in 40 years. Teamwork lies at the heart of how we function every day.”

Through the years, the Foundation has developed five self-contained campsites: Echo Valley (capacity of 240 people), Singing Hills (154 people), Linnet’s Wings (84), Comanche Outpost (55) and Wind Song (40). Two of these camps, Echo Valley and Singing Hills, provide tuition-based Laity Lodge Youth Camps run by the Foundation during the summer months. From May through mid-August they are not available to outside groups.

Each campsite provides cabins that accommodate up to 20 people, bathroom and shower facilities, fully-equipped kitchens, and dining halls. Most cabins are heated but not air-conditioned. Each campsite has easy access to the Frio River for swimming, boating, or fishing as well as access to hiking trails. Amphitheaters, or some other natural gathering spots, that face the river make campfires easy when groups provide their own wood. The larger sites also include playing fields and sport courts for basketball and volleyball.

“On any given weekend year-

round, we have 500-600 people using the campsites,” says Cochrane. “Making sure the physical sites run properly is like overseeing a small city. We need to maintain access to electricity and water, ensure appropriate waste management, and provide emergency medical services. We have developed a protocol for nearly every medical situation imaginable. If necessary, we can have an injured or ill person transported to Methodist Hospital in San Antonio within 45 minutes.”



Campers

Weather can also be an issue in the Frio River Canyon, such as the storm that hit during late summer of 1998, when the river road swelled from a few inches of water to about eight feet. “Being at the headwaters of the Frio, there aren’t many tributaries in the property and the flooding drains off quickly,” says Cochrane. “Nonetheless, we monitor weather radar daily with a special computer program to protect our camps.”

While the Foundation provides the facilities, groups that use the campsites must provide their own programming, meal service, trash and recycling management, house-keeping, insurance, health care, and general supervision for recreational and other activities as well as Red Cross certified lifeguards. In the spirit of helping groups make the best of their experience, Foundation camp

staff periodically sponsor a conference held at Echo Valley that is targeted for church and group leaders who have reserved a campsite for the upcoming year.

“Whether or not the leaders are able to attend the conference, we are as proactive as we can be with our groups,” says Cochrane. “We encourage leaders to visit the campsite if they’ve never been out here before. We give them tips useful for organizing meal and clean-up services. We send preparation check-

lists and complete descriptions of the facilities. If they wish, we can discuss ideas for large- and small-group activities. Once groups check in, we schedule an orientation time where we meet with the entire group to discuss safety, the story of the Foundation and the campsites, as well as places to see and things to do.”

Overseeing this “small city” of 1,900 acres and its constant flow of temporary inhabitants, anticipating how best to serve the needs of groups as they plan unique experiences for children, fulfilling the purpose first envisioned decades ago by Mary and Howard Butt, Sr., with their hard work and commitment to the children—this is the ministry of the Foundation Camp staff.

“It all comes down to the joy of children,” says Cochrane. Children who may be gazing upon stars for



Lyn DeVille, Foundation Camp Registrar

their first time, feeling the wonder of canyon walls rather than apartment buildings rising over their shoulders, feeling their own spirits move in response to the silent darkness or the touch of first light upon the canyon—such experiences can begin or deepen a spiritual connection that grows through a lifetime.

For more information about the Foundation Camps, please call Lyn at (830) 792-1210 or view our Web site at www.hebuttdn.org.

“It was so awesome that someone would care enough to provide a facility for groups to get away from the distractions of the city life of their everyday surroundings to focus on their personal relationship with God and one another. And in such a beautiful place which magnifies God’s handiwork. The facilities are wonderful—the modern conveniences make the rustic experience comfortable for anyone. Best of all is the fact that the facilities are ‘free’ to groups, which does not make the experience prohibitive to anyone because of the cost.”

Camper

Going Home

by Don Murdock, Laity Lodge Executive Director
e-mail: dmurdock@laitylodge.org



A scientist named Johannes Schmidt made the discovery that every eel in the western world is born in the Sargasso Sea. In the autumn, the eels of Europe and Eastern America make their way down the rivers and end in the Sargasso Sea, between the West Indies and the Azores. The following spring, the baby eels make their way to fresh water; two years later, when they are two inches long, the eels make their way back home alone. Those with 115 vertebrae swim back to Europe; those with 107 vertebrae go west to America. The parents remain behind to die.

The green turtle of the Caribbean performs an equally spectacular feat, swimming 1,400 miles from Brazil to the Ascension Island, in the mid-Atlantic, at breeding time. The tiny deer mouse of Wyoming, no bigger than the end of one's finger, can be transported a mile from home—about 100 miles in terms of human size—and unerringly find his way back to the fifty yard patch that constitutes home. Homing pigeons return over hundreds of miles. It

was once believed that this was the result of hard work by the human trainer, until someone discovered

accidentally that the baby pigeons return home just as unerringly without any training - and often make better time than the “trained” adults!

Have you read stories like these before and thought “it is incredible the way God has provided all the creatures exquisitely accurate guiding systems. They all seem to never stay lost. They all instinctively find their ways home.” And, have you then wondered, “why hasn’t God built such systems into we human beings?” We live so much of our lives wandering far from home, without a clue where it is or how to get there. I wish God would have built into us the same quality of homing devices that He did for homing pigeons, deer mice, and the green turtle. Well, I’m a bit embarrassed to admit that I’ve harbored such thoughts on occasion. I now understand that those were occasions when I was protesting to

God about the implications and consequences of being created in His image. Being made, as we all are, in His image means being endowed with freedom and responsibility. And, how we exercise these gifts

has enormous consequences. Like the deer mice and eels born in the Sargasso Sea, we are made with

built-in alarms that “go off” when we are lost, away from our true home and family. God has provided us with a deep yearning to be “at home,” in our true place, with our loving family. But, He did not make us a fail-safe auto pilot guidance system to take us home. Being made in His image, we are given the privilege and responsibility to choose whether or not to reside in our proper place, with our loving family. Do we really think that God does not provide for us as faithfully as the rest of His creatures?

“Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet Dear Heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth more than they?”

(Matthew 6:26)

So, our heavenly Father has given to us a deep inner awareness that we belong someplace special, with some very special people. We yearn deeply for our true place, our true family. And He has given us the most personal guide to take us there. And, this guide, first of all, comes to us saying, “Trust me. Follow me. I will take you home. Come and go with me. And, along the way, we will pick up a whole lot of others who are true family. You will love them.” So God gives himself to us in His Son, Jesus. He calls us to orient all our lives around Him. He is the one true, magnetic north. Following Him is a way home. It’s our choice. He will lead us safely to our destiny and the company of all our brothers and sisters who were once as lost, as away from home and family, as we were. God did so much more for us than give us a built-in guidance system. He gave himself as our personal, faithful, exquisitely competent companion and guide. Exactly what creatures created in His image need.

“... our heavenly Father has given to us a deep inner awareness that we belong someplace special, with some very special people. We yearn deeply for our true place, our true family. And He has given us the most personal guide to take us there.”

Special Interest Laity Lodge Retreats

October 15-17 • AA-Alanon Retreat

A unique opportunity to deepen your healing through the 12-step program. "Forgiveness/Re-Creation/The Promises, and In Dialogue. Dialogue is set on Isaiah 43 and AA's promises, relative to the redeeming grace of God in the healing process."

Speakers: Don Legge, Chaplain in Alcohol and Drug Treatment at Scott and White Hospital, Salado, Texas; Marilyn Wedell-Legge, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Salado and Bereavement Coordinator of the Austin Hospice, Salado, Texas

\$145 per person for Lodge; \$180 per person for Black Bluff

November 1-4 • Writers' Workshop

This is for the serious writer, published and unpublished, who is very committed to the written word as a means of communication. Experts will address the mechanics of being published. The week will also address your own spiritual growth.

Speakers: Paula D'Arcy, Author, speaker, therapist, Kerrville, Texas; Leonard Goss, Sr., Acquisitions Editor, Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee; Pam Martin, Lyricist, Austin, Texas; Kathleen Niendorff, Literary Agent, Austin, Texas; Mary Anne O'Roark, Executive Editor, Guideposts, New York, New York; Ken Stephens, President, Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee

Musician: D. E. Adams, Lyricist, song writer, recording artist, performer, Louisville, Kentucky

\$300 per person for Lodge; \$350 per person for Black Bluff

December 29- January 1, 2000 • Praying in the New Millennium

A quiet reflective retreat. A time to prayerfully reflect personally and in small groups on where God is leading us personally and collectively in the new millennium.

Speakers: Paula D'Arcy, Author, speaker, therapist, Kerrville, Texas; Don Murdock, Executive Director of Laity Lodge, Kerrville, Texas

Musician: Letha Crouch, Pianist, San Antonio, Texas

\$175 per person for Lodge; \$205 per person for Black Bluff

January 24-27, 2000 • Women's Retreat

"Discovering the Christ in You, the Hope of Glory"

Speaker: Bitsy Rubsamen, Author, retreat leader, San Antonio, Texas

Musician: Letha Crouch, Pianist, San Antonio, Texas

\$250 per person for Lodge; \$300 per person for Black Bluff

Some of the treasures that I will take home from the retreat

By Sue McClane

driving through a river . . .

a church gathered,
a church scattered . . .

our differences are a blessing . . .

follow Jesus Christ every day . . .

servant leadership . . .

Amazing Grace on a clarinet . . .

keep me in the stream
of the Spirit . . .

ministry from the Laity Lodge
kitchen . . .

ministry through painting T-shirts
together . . .

resting in the Holy Spirit with
powerful naps . . .

love from the center of
who you are . . .

God's love is offered, not forced . . .

just do it . . .

the plant may be dry, but the roots
are still alive . . .

a gift that goes on and on . . .

God is beautiful, all the time.

View current and Spring 2000 schedules:
<http://www.hebuttdn.org/laity/llsched.htm>

Registration for Laity Lodge retreat to be held _____ (give date).

Please enclose deposit (\$50 per person). Deposit applies to the total cost and is nonrefundable.

☐ Lodge Room

☐ Black Bluff

Name(s): Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ _____
List first and last name

Address: _____
City State Zip

Occupation: _____ Daytime phone: (____) _____ Roommate preference (if any) _____

Please make check payable to **LAITY LODGE** and mail to **P. O. Box 290670, Kerrville, TX 78029-0670**

Continued from page 2 (Cody Center opens)

brother and me that Jesus is the potter and we are the clay.”

David Cody added, “You may not have known my father, yet through the life of Laity Lodge, your lives have been touched by him, perhaps by a Creativity Week or a prayer retreat. My father once said that his calling was to create space where God can be at work. Already we can see and hear that the work of God is alive in the Cody Center.”

Vice President of the H. E. Butt Foundation, David Rogers, said that, “Building the Cody Center has been a four-year journey. How do you design something that didn’t exist anywhere else in the world, so far as we knew, that would honor the vision of Bill Cody? It required an extraordinary team which came to include the staff of Laity Lodge as well as the Artisan Group in Kerrville who served as architects. It also required the commitment of the Resource Development Council, the development arm of the Foundation, to help generate the needed funds. We thank all of you.”

Cody Center Bell Dedication



David Smith, Carol Murdock, Charis Smith, Don Murdock

David and Charis Smith of Houston make a gift of a new bell for the Cody Center. This is their second gift of a bell. The first was a gift to Laity Lodge.

Discovering How Best to Use the Cody Center

Now that the Cody Center has been a functioning reality all through the summer months, the Foundation staff is discovering how best to utilize its various capabilities. “We want to be good stewards of the Cody Center and fully incorporate its extraordinary potential into the life of Laity Lodge,” says Don Murdock, executive director of Laity Lodge.

“For months we have been asking ourselves about the meaning of having such a facility and what kind of programs to build around it. The purpose of building the Cody Center was to enhance and strengthen the mission of Laity Lodge through the arts and other creative activities. It is a resource that enables our guests to be greeted with art and with creativity along with the relevance of being a Christian. To encounter the arts and our own unique creativity is to enlarge as an individual and as a community.

“In response to this we have been using the Cody Center this summer as a space for creating and exhibiting art, as well as a facility for art education and discussions of faith and the arts.

“The feedback we’ve received from our guests has been both encouraging and helpful. We will continue to explore the versatility of this facility for many months to come. It’s such an exciting time.”

Instrumental in helping Foundation staff cultivate and implement a vision for the Cody Center is Ginger Geyer, ceramics artist and museum consultant. Geyer was hired in the spring of 1999 as artistic coordinator for

the Cody Center. Her role has been both practical and philosophical, from recommending what art supplies to have stocked in the studios to how to integrate the visual arts into the life of Laity Lodge.

“The visual arts have the capacity to take something invisible, such as an artist’s sense of transcendence, and make it tangible,” says Geyer. “We’re enfleshing something, taking a moment in time and giving it a physicality. They translate the moment into color upon a canvas, texture in clay, ceramics, or perhaps shape iron.

“The best in visual arts takes you beyond craft to connect with God. While craft involves the head and hands, art adds to the process a profound sense of spiritual discovery. When this is integrated with exceptional aesthetic quality, the work of art transcends the artist and the materials. Any form of the arts—visual, musical, written—involves a transcendent engagement between the maker, the materials, and the audience. It also points to God. Sometimes the work of art will charm or comfort you. Other times it gets the truth across by disarming you. Ultimately, the artist’s job is to be intentionally present to God’s presence and to create in fresh response to that presence. It is not an easy job. Our goal is to bring to Laity Lodge visual artists who can communicate that task to others and whose artistic lives are inseparable from their spiritual lives.”

Laity Lodge ~ Spring 2000

Unless otherwise indicated, retreats listed are on weekends and begin Friday at 7:00 p.m. with dinner and conclude after noon on Sunday. Weekend retreats cost \$145 per person for the Lodge and \$180 for Black Bluff (unless otherwise noted). A \$50 deposit is required and will be returned if space is not available in that particular retreat. If this is your church's retreat, please register through your church. If you are interested in attending but are not a member of the sponsoring church, please call the Laity Lodge office at (830) 792-1230 to check on room availability.

DATE	GROUP	SPEAKERS/MUSICIANS
January 7-9 <i>wait list only</i>	Men's Retreat The theme of the retreat will be "My relationship with my father, with God the Father, and to my children as a father, and how does faith in Jesus Christ relate to all of that."	Roger Hestilow, Dentist, Boerne Paul Rush, President and Founder of An Earful of Books (audiobook stores), Austin Howard Hovde, Executive Director Emeritus, Laity Lodge, Kerrville Musician: Kurt Kaiser, Composer, arranger, concert pianist, recording artist, Waco
January 14-16	University United Methodist Church, Austin	Steven Tomlinson, University of Texas economics professor, Austin
January 21-23	St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Waco Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Waco St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Midland Topic: "Learning to Pray Together"	Bill Adams, Professor of Liturgics, Episcopal Theology Seminary of the Southwest, Austin
January 24-27	Women's Retreat - "Discovering the Christ in You, the Hope of Glory" <i>\$250 per person for Lodge; \$300 per person for Black Bluff</i>	Bitsy Rubsamen, Author, retreat leader, San Antonio Musician: Letha Crouch, Pianist, San Antonio
January 28-30	Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston St. Mark's Episcopal Church, San Antonio Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Houston	To be announced
February 4-6	First Presbyterian Church, Austin	Killian Knoe, Church of the Savior, Washington, D.C.
February 11-13	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin	Jim Singleton, Senior Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin
February 18-20	Emmanuel Episcopal Church, San Angelo Church of the Good Shepherd, Austin	Stephen Kinney, Episcopal Priest, Austin
February 25-27	Spring Church of Christ Retreat	To be announced
March 3-5	First United Methodist Church - Women's Retreat Ministry, Houston	Molly Marshall, Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City
March 10-12	Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston	Chuck Jones, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg
March 17-19	St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston	Andre Resner, Author, retreat leader, Princeton
March 24-26	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Corpus Christi St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Antonio	To be announced
April 3-6	Writers' Retreat <i>\$250 per person for Lodge; \$300 per person for Black Bluff</i>	Madeleine L'Engle, Award-winning author of more than 40 books, New York
April 7-9	St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, Houston	Madeleine L'Engle, Award-winning author of more than 40 books, New York
April 14-16	Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio Christ Episcopal Church, San Antonio	Madeleine L'Engle, Award-winning author of more than 40 books, New York
April 28-30	St. David's Episcopal Church, Austin	Keith Hosey, Priest and Director, John XXIII Retreat Center, Hartford City
May 5-7	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Austin St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Lubbock	To be announced
May 26-29	Memorial Day Single Adults Retreat <i>\$175 per person for Lodge; \$205 per person for Black Bluff</i>	To be announced

Registration for Laity Lodge retreat to be held _____ (give date).

Please enclose deposit (\$50 per person). Deposit applies to the total cost and is nonrefundable.

☐ Lodge Room

☐ Black Bluff

Name(s): Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___

List first and last name

Address: _____

City

State

Zip

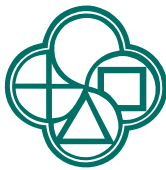
Occupation: _____ Daytime phone: (_____) _____ Roommate preference (if any) _____

Please make check payable to **LAITY LODGE** and mail to **P. O. Box 290670, Kerrville, TX 78029-0670**

Fall 1999

LAITY LODGE
Post Office Box 290670
Kerrville, TX 78029-0670

Return Service Requested



Laity Lodge®

The renewal of society through the renewal of the Church
Church renewal through renewal of the family
Family renewal through renewed individuals

H. E. Butt Foundation MINISTRIES

- Laity Lodge
- Laity Lodge Youth Camp
- H. E. Butt Foundation Camps

The H. E. Butt Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1933 by Howard and Mary Holdsworth Butt.

The Foundation is headquartered in Kerrville, Texas. It operates a 1900-acre retreat facility 60 miles west of Kerrville.

www.hebuttdn.org

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENTS

LAITY LODGE, an ecumenical Christian retreat center, is dedicated to our common quest to know Christ and what that means in the ordinary secular relationships of our lives. It is a place where people are free to explore choices leading to growth in creativity, effectiveness, and servant leadership.

LAITY LODGE YOUTH CAMP is a coed, interdenominational Christian youth camp which focuses on spontaneity, fun, and relationships to show kids the best two weeks of their lives, while sharing with them the Gospel message and love of Jesus Christ. LLYC is dedicated to providing campers with healthy fun in an emotionally safe, learning environment.

H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION CAMPS provide free camping facilities for qualified church and community-service groups. The program especially targets children and youth groups in Texas communities who would not otherwise be able to afford such an experience. The goal is to provide a place conducive to healthy Christian character development.