

Shalom House News

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2010



Dear Shalom House Friends,



It's almost impossible for me to fathom that I have been at Shalom House for a year! So many people

have asked, "So how do you like your new job? How's it going at Shalom House?" I love my new job and things are wonderful at Shalom House!

The best way for me to explain it is that we are a Catholic presence in a remote corner of Hanover County. St. Joseph, Mary and St. Francis greet retreatants in the gardens. Books, photos and other Catholic symbols are found throughout the buildings and grounds as gentle reminders of who we are. We welcome people of every faith background imaginable.

We host groups who provide service to others in many capacities such as health care, pastoral care, home health, counseling, historical preservation, and special health needs. We provide quiet and compassionate service through our hospitality to those who come through our door.

The blessings of being part of Shalom House are constant—seeing Jesus in the faces of faithful worshippers, listening to the Spirit in silence, being present to God in the ever-unfolding gifts of nature to name just a few.

It's been a wonderful year and I am grateful to all those who helped make it so.

Peace,

Mary Alexander

Special points of interest:

Update Letter from the Director

Prayer Retreat

Advisory Board Update

Upcoming Retreats

Shalom House Merchandise

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Prayer and Temperament Retreat—March 18-19, 2011

Are you thinking about a way to make lent a more prayerful time for yourself? Make plans now to attend our Lenten retreat entitled *Prayer and Temperament* based on the book by Monsignor Chet Michael. It will be held Friday and Saturday, March 18

and 19, 2011 and will be led by Jean Radford a graduate of Fr. Michael's SDI program. The cost is \$90 per person and includes overnight accommodations, meals and materials. Contact Shalom House at 804-883-6149 to register.



Advisory Board News

Our last newsletter brought us FOUR volunteers to begin our advisory board. They are Brian Morgan, Bill Fox, Gail Robinson and Frank Castelvecci. These generous people bring a wide variety of skills and experiences to Shalom House. To date we have met three times. We have developed a set of by-laws, set a future course for the Board and learned about the inner workings of Shalom House and how it interfaces with the Diocese of Richmond.

At our August meeting, two additional members will join us. They are Condra Parker and Paulita Matheny, both accomplished and giving women.

Future tasks for the Board will include writing a mission statement, electing officers, and developing short and long-term goals for Shalom House. We would still love to have additional members join our Board. If you are interested call 804-883-6149 for more information.

Some Special Volunteers



We'd like to extend a special heart-felt thank you to our volunteer gardeners. Not only do they keep the gardens at Shalom House beautiful, but this year they took on a few special projects. They brought beautiful pots of flowers to welcome guests at the front door of each lodge and at the farmhouse. They replaced our statue of Mary in the front garden and they adopted a space by Pond View lodge by planting hydrangeas and pachysandra. The gardens in front of the farmhouse have been especially with azaleas, iris, daylilies and more. Thank you to Nancy and David Owens, Margarite Arrighi, and Ron Schriewer.

Retreats in the Works!

We ask our guests to evaluate their experience after each retreat. We ask what types of retreats people would like Shalom House to offer. We have a few ideas in the planning stage. Please check our website at www.shalomhouseretreatcenter.com for updated information.

Look for these weekend retreats in the coming months:

Late November—Praying through Advent

Early February—Couples Retreat

Early March—Undirected Silent Retreat

Mid-March—Prayer and Temperament (see page 1)



Who We Served July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010

For the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, we hosted 2,074 guests at Shalom House. That included 60 different church and nonprofit groups.

We have shared the beauty of Shalom House with Catholics, Baptists, Episcopalians, Church of Christ sisters, Lutherans, Unitarians, Methodists and more. We have hosted nonprofit groups, interfaith policy groups, educa-

tors, counselors, pastoral care workers, church boards, personal care assistants, bereaved parents, meditation/centering prayer groups, and even scrapbookers and quilters. We'd like to extend a special thanks to all who stayed with us last year.

In other news, since we launched our website in September of 2009, we have had almost 8,000 visitors!



Every season beautifully unfolds at Shalom House.

Kitchen Upgrade

Shalom House has grown so much in the past few years. Because of our growth, we are mandated to upgrade our kitchen to comply with health department standards.

At this writing we are having the needed changes completed including installation of a three-compartment sink with drain-boards, a sanitizing dishwasher and separate hand-washing sink. Since we had to remove several cabinets to install the new sink, those were rehung in the food service room to improve that area. Early this fall staff will be certified through the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation.



Phoebe's Corner



Hi! I'm Phoebe and I've lived at Shalom House for almost three years. I can tell you what really goes on here. Sometimes it's lovely and quiet and I can hunt and play all day long.

Lots of times there are people and cars here. I like to smell all the cars to see where the people come from. I also like to sit on top of the cars to look over the grounds.

My favorite day is when we have fish for lunch or dinner. I'm not allowed in the kitchen, but I know if I'm good, I'll get a special treat in my bowl.

I always try to sneak into the prayer services. I really like it when the people are singing. They seem so happy and calm. So next time you come to Shalom House, look for me, Phoebe, and I'll give you the real tour of the grounds!

Signed, Phoebes (feeb)s



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Be still and know that I am God.

Ps. 46

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Shalom House T-Shirt, Coffee Mugs and Aprons!

Do you like the Shalom House logo? Now you can have it on a t-shirt, apron or coffee mug. Place your order now!

T-Shirts are available in Adult size small, medium, large, extra large and XX large and cost \$12.00 each. T-shirts are white with the words "Shalom House" in purple on the top-left. The full color logo is printed on the back.

Aprons are white and have the Shalom House logo printed in color above the pockets. They are one-size fits all and cost \$15.00 each.

Coffee mugs are 11 ounces, white and

have the Shalom House logo printed on the front and back. They cost \$8.00 each.

Watch our website for other new items including embroidered hats, hooded sweatshirts and golf shirts.

Call 804-883-6149 today to order your t-shirts, coffee mugs and aprons. Shipping rates will be added to orders as appropriate.

