

Report of the Center at Cathedral Ridge to the 130th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado, October 12-14, 2017

Executive Summary

For almost eight years now, groups and individuals have come to Cathedral Ridge seeking respite, retreat, and renewal. It is a place of great beauty, a place for personal reflection as well as community, and increasingly a place known for the excellent care it provides its guests.

Of the individuals that visited Cathedral Ridge in 2017, the overwhelming majority came for retreats—vestry members, ordinands, lay leaders, clergy, families, crafters, Daughters of the King, members of Cursillo. Many came for learning—CDI participants, EfM mentors, Tibetan Cranial practitioners, camp staff-in-training. Close to one quarter of all visitors to Cathedral Ridge came as campers—from Texas, from Missouri, and from across the state of Colorado.

A Look at Our Visitors in 2017

Following is a snapshot of Cathedral Ridge visitors in 2017:

- 78 groups came to Cathedral Ridge, a 22% increase over 2016.
- Of these groups, 32 were from outside the diocese.
- A total of 1,200 guests made up these groups.
- 162 Colorado children and youth from 26 parishes participated in one of the six diocesan summer camps and a local parish camp.
- An additional 123 children and youth campers came from the Diocese of Northwest Texas and Word of Life Church, St. Joseph, Missouri.

2017 Program Year

Summer

This year the diocese offered six summer camps. St. John's Cathedral Camp came under the umbrella of diocesan camps and was opened up to all parishes. Explore Camp was divided into two camps—one for elementary students, the other for students in grades 6-9. Cosmos Camp, our hands-on science camp, continued into its second year, and the Colorado Youth Leadership Initiative Year 1 Camp ran simultaneously. Camp chaplains played an important role in our summer camps, integrating worship and scripture into the daily life of the camps.

In addition to summer camps, OC International once again made a mid-summer visit to Cathedral Ridge for its annual mission retreat (103 guests), and four families used Cathedral Ridge as their venue for family reunions.

Adult Formation Programs

Ministry to adults continued with the Church Development Institute (7 workshops plus leadership training); an Episcopal Service Corps retreat; EfM mentor training; and retreats for Lay Pastoral Leaders, the Standing Committee, Partnership Vicars, Aspirants, and Ordinands, among others.

The Office of Faith Formation hosted its third Lenten Quiet Retreat: *From Gift to Sacrifice* and will again host an Advent Retreat in December. Diocesan youth leaders are gathering for a team-building and skill-sharing retreat in September.

Property Maintenance and Improvements

Significant building maintenance and upgrades have occurred in 2017:

- Added keypad entry for all accommodations
- Lupine Lodge – started landscaping around building; installed new fireplace
- Sage Dining Hall – installed window shades to diffuse morning light, refinished floor, installed food-grade racks and new prep table in kitchen, added AED unit
- Arnica – converted building to serve as kitchen and housekeeping storage, laundry, chef's office, and employee breakroom
- Bath house – painted interior and replaced shower heads
- Bluebell – painted interior and exterior, replaced window screens
- Aster – repainted upstairs interior and exterior decks; replaced screens; completely renovated lower level, adding entertainment room, game room, and arts and crafts studio
- Gooseberry – installed new roof on garage
- Snowberry – added ADA entry ramp and ADA bathroom fixtures, expanded exterior deck
- Welcome Center – painted exterior, repaired roof, added entry porch
- Challenge Course – Added Giant Swing high element, trained 4 Cathedral Ridge staff to reduce dependency on outside facilitators, erected new storage sheds for ropes equipment, added new rock climbing wall
- Updated the Way of the Cross with station icons and a prayer booklet

Staffing

2017 saw some significant changes at Cathedral Ridge with the calling of its executive director, the Rev. Canon Ken Malcolm, to new work in Austin, Texas. In addition, changes have occurred in operations management, and in office and reservations support. Transitions require extra work and effort and we are grateful for the smooth transition so far and for the hard work and dedication of the staff at Cathedral Ridge.

Julie Logan has been serving as interim operations manager since May. Amanda Koehler has taken on the role of reservation specialist and operations manager. Kent Templeton has been promoted to chef. Staff complement each other well and have worked hard to provide seamless hospitality to guests.

Reservation System

In January the CampBrain Conference Center reservation system was upgraded from a desktop to web-based version, allowing it to be accessed from any location. This has increased efficiency and improved communications between Cathedral Ridge and the Office of the Bishop, which provides accounting and general support for Cathedral Ridge operations. A simplified rate system was implemented in August, helping eliminate confusion in pricing contracts.

Looking Ahead

We look forward to having a new executive director in place in 2018.

We are planning for continued growth in the number of bookings and are looking at ways to better utilize the property during slow times.

There are ongoing maintenance needs; short-term, low-cost projects with big impact; and opportunities for larger, long-term capital improvements. Some short-term investments to the property that are being considered include:

- Continued enhancement of welcome center, the first point of contact for guests arriving at Cathedral Ridge
- Ongoing work on the grounds, including upgrading some of the low ropes course elements
- Enhancements and upgrades to the water system
- Expanded parking for Lupine Lodge
- New carpet and furniture in the Lupine Lodge main area
- New children's playground
- Improved signage
- Covered play area for rainy afternoons

Capital Improvements

The leadership of Cathedral Ridge and the diocese are deeply grateful to the congregations, individuals, and granting entities that have made gifts and pledges to the capital campaign. In the time ahead the board will be working through a list of capital projects to take to the next stage of planning and execution. We will also be in conversation with the Standing Committee and other stakeholders about strategies for further fundraising to support programs, operations, maintenance, and other capital needs not yet funded.

Cathedral Ridge Mission

Cathedral Ridge is a place apart—a place where God’s Kingdom on earth is experienced through discovery, collaboration, challenge, and community; a place which provides both a sanctuary and a stimulating environment in which lives are transformed in relationship with God and one another; a place that values faithful stewardship of all God’s magnificent creation. Cathedral Ridge is a place to encounter innovative Christian spiritual formation for all ages, excellence in hospitality, and peace amidst a turbulent world.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*
Psalm 121:1

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Methe, Office of the Bishop Liaison for Cathedral Ridge