

Report of the Center at Cathedral Ridge to the 132nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado, October 3-5, 2019

Executive Summary

For ten 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 2019, the overwhelming majority came for retreats—vestry members, lay leaders, clergy, crafters, Daughters of the King, Black Lives Matter, women's groups, members of Cursillo. Many came for learning—EfM mentors, camp staff-in-training, outdoor education groups. Close to one quarter of all visitors to Cathedral Ridge came as campers—from Texas, from Missouri, and from across the state of Colorado.

Look at Our Visitors in 2019

Following is a snapshot of Cathedral Ridge visitors in 2019:

- Seventy-five groups held events at Cathedral Ridge.
- Of these groups, 26 were from outside the diocese.
- A total of 1,800 guests made up these groups.
- 180 Colorado children and youth from 25 parishes participated in one of the four diocesan summer camps and a local parish camp.
- An additional 186 children and youth campers came from the Diocese of Northwest Texas; Word of Life Church, Missouri; and the Episcopal Collegiate School, Arkansas.

2019 Program Year

Summer

This year the diocese offered four summer camps, including the new youth leadership program's Journey Camp. Camps served children and youth grades three through nine. Youth ages 15-17 were eligible to participate in the Counselors in Training program, and young people 18 and over served on staff as counselors. Some counselors and camp directors have come to camp since Cathedral Ridge opened and are now giving back to new groups of campers the same transformative experiences they had as children.

Faith formation and worship are woven into each week of camp, with a full-time camp chaplain part of each camp's leadership team.

In addition to summer camps, OC International once again made a mid-summer visit to Cathedral Ridge for its annual mission retreat (over 100 guests), a number of

families used the campus for their family reunions, and churches from across the state gathered at Cathedral Ridge for their parish retreats

Adult Formation Programs

Ministry to adults continued with the Episcopal Service Corps retreat; EfM mentor training; and retreats for Lay Pastoral Leaders, the Standing Committee, Partnership Vicars, Aspirants, and Ordinands.

The Office of Faith Formation hosted its first women's retreat in January and will begin its Living into the Realities of Today series in December with the LGBTQIA Welcoming and Inclusion workshop and retreat.

Property Maintenance and Improvements

Following the lengthy list of improvements and maintenance in 2017, the center focused on two major capital improvements:

Water System Upgrades

- We upgraded the upper part of the water distribution system, replacing decades old deteriorating underground piping. Our experience in prior years was that a leak would drain our entire supply of stored water requiring us to truck in water and find and repair the leak, all at great expense.
- We drilled a second well which doubles our water supply. In conjunction with that we significantly increased our water storage capacity which will provide the infrastructure to support growth in the years ahead.

Elderberry Renovations

- This cottage has been renovated and expanded to provide lodging for the center's executive staff.
- We were able to achieve this significant upgrade at minimal expense utilizing in-house resources.

Staffing

During the 2018 camping season we benefited from the services of a resident executive director who oversaw the summer camping season. Early in 2019 however, it was determined that the employment relationship would not continue.

In February, we were blessed to engage the services of Helen and Rick Hargreaves who though recently retired, were willing to offer their extensive camp management backgrounds as interim directors. Their service will end October 1 due to the calling of a new Executive Director.

On August 12, 2019 Bishop Kym announced the calling of our own Rev. Kim Seidman, who will resign her position as rector of Holy Comforter Church in Broomfield, to become Vicar and Executive Director October 1.

Looking Ahead

We are optimistic about the future prospects as we move forward with our new Executive Director. We see increased opportunities to enrich the ministry and to grow the Center at Cathedral Ridge towards fulfillment of the ambitious ideas that were envisioned nearly 10 years ago.

Capital Improvements

On August 24th, 2019 a groundbreaking was held to launch a series of major upgrades and enhancements to the core facilities at the Center. Sage dining hall will be enhanced to allow for a more indoor/outdoor experience by adding rollup doors and renovating the outdoor patio area. The North side of Sage will also be converted to a multi-purpose outdoor gathering and activity area.

Lupine Lodge, the workhorse lodging facility, will become a vibrant and exciting gathering place as the area in front of the building will transition from parking space to program space. The space will be a patio area which can host outdoor receptions, and informal gatherings. The fire pit overlooking the meadow the mountains and the valley is sure to be a major focal point.

Traffic will be re-routed to a new parking area to rear of Lupine lodge and guests will be greeted there.

The Next Phase

The board has identified the next set of capital priorities and are in the early phase of developing concepts and plans. We are very aware of the need to expand our ability to host larger groups, meaning more lodging accommodations. We are developing plans for both seasonal youth lodging as well as adding more year-round adult beds.

We have also prioritized a three-season outdoor pavilion, which will be a multi-purpose programming and meeting facility.

Completion of the water distribution upgrade throughout the rest of the property will also be included in our priorities.

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. We are excited to deploy those gifts into actual capital projects that you can actually touch, feel, and enjoy. As we move forward, we will be again seeking your support to take the Center at Cathedral Ridge to the next level. 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,

Brian Bennett, Chairman, Board of Directors for Cathedral Ridge