



Lamb's Tale

December NEWSLETTER 2023

Hello everyone

~ Our Purpose ~

is captured by those "Called into ministry" in the following marvelously typical words.

"My stay at the Haven River Inn was absolutely refreshing in every way. The comfortable bed, delicious meals, and winding trails will draw me back. The heart warming oasis provided refuge and relief in the short time I was here."

And another, "When I go to the Haven I get with God, and God gets with me!"

To send a pastor for a two-night stay blesses an entire church. In these trying times there is no end to the good that needs to be done, and it is estimated that each leader has a sphere of influence in excess of 500 people. Your donation toward having refreshed leaders is making a difference.

~ Our Hope ~

In any ministry, there can be seasons when you wonder if God sees you, and in the story that follows we knew He is yet watching over the ministry at the Haven:

A Haven Happening



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Ministry leaders will have visited and refreshed their calling this year ...

and if you are a ministry leader, we are offering a 5 day mini-sabbatical in January. Think about asking your elder

In the Christmas Eve cold snap of 2022, we got a call from our manager, William, at the Haven who said, "I have to cancel the Christmas guests because we have a burst pipe. The kitchen ceiling has caved in near the kitchen door."

This lovely family had held Christmas at the Haven for well over a decade. Travel plans, food plans, and where to go—all a big disappointment.

yet
Sickened, my husband and I went to the Haven. It seemed that a pipe had broken from within the second floor's north wall soaking the ceiling below. So, the water had to be shut off to the house. No water, no guests.

But, on closer inspection, we smelled smoke. And looking at the joists of the second floor, we saw scorched boards as well as blackened PVC piping. You know that smell that comes from wet ashes after you have doused a fire with water? That was the lingering smell. Near the scorched area was a large metal exhaust pipe from the furnace in the kitchen. The furnace had been working hard all night through the freeze. Doubtless, there had been a fire during the night in that subflooring above the ceiling sheetrock.

The freeze that broke a pipe yielded the water that put out the fire.

Yet again, we knew that God has His hand on the Haven. He wants it for His ministry leading servants...and lovely families, too.

Please join us in giving this gift to the those on the front-lines of ministry? With a one-time donation or better yet, as a Haven Hundred member!

**Donate now to join God's
work at the Haven.**

**board or board of directors for
a Christmas present!**

**Go here for the information on
[The Cycle of Grace](#)**



~ Our Help ~

The Haven Hundred

There's just something about the number 100! When I was in school, 100 was the perfect score. And living to 100 is like the epitome of living a long life. And going online you can find the top 100 most influential people, The 100 greatest songs of all time, etc. There's just something about the number 100.

And you can be part of a very impactful 100, by becoming a member of the Haven Hundred!

Are you one of 100 people, or part of 100 Sunday school classes, or 100 churches, etc, who are called by God to give \$100 a month to the Lamb's Tale's program of leadership respite care at the Haven River Inn? We provide the refreshment of two free nights a year to those in ministry who faithfully shepherd and refresh us with God's word.

The overflow of a refreshed leader who is confirmed in his/her calling is simply inestimable to God's kingdom.

Would you ask the Lord in prayer if He is calling you to bless others by becoming one of the Haven Hundred?

With all that is going on in the world today, the time to do this is now.

by Pastor Tim Fahrenthold, a member of the Haven Hundred.

Join the Haven Hundred
today!

It's a decades' long God story of doing what the Haven does best for Christian leaders. Beginning in 2000, we followed God's lead and created this offering. It is like giving "love out of nowhere." Only God does stuff like that! So, we (He) fashioned this quiet



ministry to do just that. The response is uniformly outstanding.

This day and age, pastors are burdened with events and dilemmas that signal the End Times. (See *Andrea Culpepper's words below!*)

Over 25% of the Bible is prophetic predictions of such events. No one knows when, but prophesy points pastors to prepare their congregations, give witness to the non-believers, and as St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."

Refreshed leaders are equipped leaders.

I would be so grateful to present that God story to your Sunday school class, your elder board, or your congregation. We need to gather a group of donors. We have the will. It's the ways and means we seek.

Please email me if you would be open to discussing that.

Suzie Ramsay

Email me, and let's talk about it!

~ Our WHY ~

It is a rare pastor who feels comfortable enough to share his concerns *about* his church, *with his church*. But one did. He revealed what keeps him awake at night. *Unity within his church*.

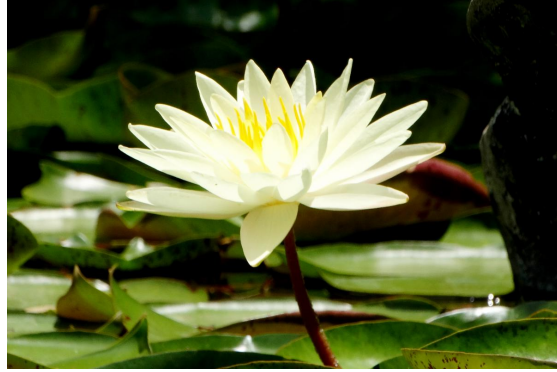
You'd think that church attendance, or financing a building renovation, or community outreach might be at the top.

But, no, he's grappling with how to respond biblically to members who bring up an assortment of divisive issues.

Unlike the apostle Paul, who probably addressed every known sin with the church at Corinth, the current list has



gone way past fornication, gossip, greed, gluttony and pride.



Steps on the way to the river

While all those behaviors have persisted through the ages, gone are the days when pastors struggled with divorce, premarital pregnancies, and cohabitation. Now a typical Christian leader is called to help people face:

- * Blended families and harmony among multiple ex-spouses
- * Abusive spouses and restraining orders
- * Addictions: Drugs, pornography, to name two.
- * Rebellion and depression in his own family (or even in himself/herself)
- * Grown children who he'd disciplined leaving the faith, and their families
- * Government restrictions on church attendance and closing of churches
- * Government interference on parental rights relative to children's gender dysphoria
- * Church unity regarding support of Israel or Palestine in the current conflict

Some things are perennial among God's people. But for the last few decades, pastors have been thrust into roles for which seminary poorly prepared them.

Because of what we endeavor to do for them, they have a chance to keep up with their own spiritual growth, the solidarity of their marriages, and some Sabbath rest. We create a setting that encourages them to keep up the fight, though difficult. We pray that we underline the calling to which they've been

called. Many, many leaders come every year. We believe we are having much success in our region.

And if these words are opening your eyes to the complexity of a pastor's life, perhaps you might make an appointment to meet up and ask how they are doing. Ask what they are concerned about, what keeps them awake at night.

*Contributed by Andrea Culpepper
Lamb's Tale board member*

The Chapel ~ we are almost there



**We're goin' to the chapel and we're gonna get married!
At the Haven in Comfort**





God loves weddings, and we do too.

Please refer prospective brides/grooms to us as we hope to make full use of the new chapel very soon.

The Chapel on the bluff at the Haven is almost complete. **We are so close!**

After the last newsletter, we encountered labor cost overruns that prompt me to relate to you this news - to complete the below short list would be another **\$35,000** if we complete every last detail, and if we use granite as walkway material, then \$25,000 would suffice. :And we like granite.

The remaining items are:

- sidewalk and grading
- landscape
- chairs
- a couple of antique pews
- a cross (for Heaven's sake)
- the material for and building of an adjustable stage
- and the remnant of labor cost in our accounts payable.

That is about it!

Come and see!

This is a building that has been so badly needed, lo, these many years. Our intended use is for worship space ... wedding space ... meeting space.

And a very special thank you:

I am praising God for the work that Claudia and husband Pastor Tim Fahrenthold are doing to move this project forward. The board of directors cannot thank them enough. And thanks again to Rev. Len Johnson for his heartfelt efforts and countless hours given for this project.

Chapel Completion Donation



The Haven River Inn offers a premier venue for Christian retreats and family reunions. And every event held at the Haven has as its overflow, the blessing of Christian leaders.

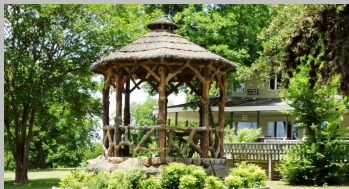
So, schedule your event with us.

830-995-3834



When you tell a pastor about the offering, have them go online to apply for a no hassle, completely free stay: www.lambstale.org

And tell pastors about this too: We are offering a 5 day mini-sabbatical at the Haven January 8-12, 2024. [Find out all about it!](#)



We are a 501c3 nonprofit ministry whose donations are fully deductible as a charitable contribution.

Our commitment is to providing an avenue for pastors to reconnect with God and live out of the heart He gave them. It provides two-nights a year free during the quiet weekdays for pastoral leaders and their spouses, coming all by themselves.

We give thanks for God's provision, and we also ask that you pray for our church leaders across the country. Caring for a flock that is hurting in new and uncharted ways, with often limited provision to care for them as before, it is indeed a unique and challenging time.

To make a General Donation of any size. We are simply so thankful. And to make monthly donations - that's SUCH a blessing. The cost of hosting a ministry leader/couple for two nights a year is ~ \$325. For a one time donations or Recurring ones, click anywhere on this block...and designate "frequency."

Haven River Inn Wishlist



The Haven River Inn is blessed to have its grounds and items on the property used so often- this means it's teeming with people! It also means lots of wear and tear. Below are a few items the Haven is in need of right now.

If you would donate any of the items listed below, please contact the Haven River Inn front desk (830-995-3834).

- Industrial washer/dryer for large capacity laundry - \$5,000+ (\$3,200 already donated)
- Carpet for upstairs and hallways - main house, needing approximately \$8,000
- We are beginning to dream of installing an Elevator:) More on this in 2024!

And in particular, if I could be so bold as to have the privilege of telling the God-story behind this ministry and this place that God has provided for leaders ... to your Sunday school class, your elder board, your Missions committee, or your church, please contact me.

We are looking to be included in their support considerations.

And thank you for reading ALL the way to the end of this Newsletter, please email me with questions.

God bless you all,
Suzie Ramsay

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