



THE POINT GUARD

A quarterly publication for the Supporters of Zephyr Point

January 31, 2010

Dear Donors,

During this month's winter storms, Sara and I have enjoyed watching the nuthatches, jays and sparrows devour seed at our bird feeders. The experience brought to mind a beautiful poem I have read in the past by John Leax:

**At the Winter Feeder
By John Leax**

**His feather flame doused dull
by icy cold,
the cardinal hunched
into the rough, green feeder
but ate no seed.**

**Through binoculars I saw
festered and useless
his beak, broken
at the root.**

**Then two: one blazing, one gray,
rode the swirling weather
into my vision
and lighted at his side.**

**Unhurried, as if possessing
the patience of God,
they cracked sunflowers
and fed him
beak to wounded beak
choice meats.**

**Each morning and afternoon
the winter long,
that odd triumvirate,
that trinity of need,
returned and ate
their sacrament
of broken seed.**

Zephyr Point is a place that is on the lookout for those who figuratively have that broken beak. Thank you for helping us be a home for spiritual nourishment and comfort.

Sincerely in Christ,

**Bedford Holmes
Executive Director**

News from Zephyr Point

Year End Donation Report

In terms of general giving this last year, our donors gave a total of \$67,300 – 34% more than budgeted. In addition, we had over \$6,000 donated as designated gifts. Our goal for general giving in 2010 is \$70,000. Please pray for us and give as the Lord leads you this next year.

New Web Site Launched

We are excited to announce that our new web site was launched this month at www.zephyrpoint.org. Please note that there is a new *Giving* page on this site and you can now donate online if you wish. I also encourage you to read the general introductory page about our fundraising philosophy as well as the *Living a Legacy* page that explains how you can leave donations to Zephyr Point via bequests, trusts and wills.

Guest Perspective

As we complete 2009, we continue to get good feedback about the ministry. Our evaluations indicate that our Zephyr Point programs are well received by our guests. Here are some comment examples from our Winter Family Holiday:

Please share any personal/spiritual growth you have experienced as a result of your time at Zephyr Point.

- We enjoyed the singing and prayer to begin and end each day. We also enjoyed the concept of the unopened gifts as a way of opening up a conversation about our relationship with Christ.
- Sing-along time was great.
- Time for reflection/growth in this peaceful setting was the best part.
- This is the highlight of our year for our son and us. The price makes it affordable for us. We are thankful.
- The evening program prompted me to reflect on a number of things, especially the last night about doing something in the next two months (community service).

Zephyr Prayer Needs

Pray for the success of the following Zephyr Point sponsored retreats planned for this year.

ZP Couple's Weekend	February 5-7
Sprucing up in the Pines Work Weekend	April 16-18
Way-Points: Tahoe Blue & Creation Green	June 6-11
Kaleidoscope 1	June 13-18
The Grand Adventure	June 25-27
The Zephyr Experience	July 4-9
Way-Points: Writers & Photographers	July 18-23
Interim Pastor's Seminar	July 18-23
Hand-Bell Conference	July 25-29
Summer Sing	July 29-August 1
Tuning @ Tahoe	August 1-6
Kaleidoscope 2	August 8-13
Kaleidoscope 3	August 22-27

Women's Retreat
Family Winter Holiday

October 15-17
December 26-29

Call our office for details and come be a part!