



The conference center of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

DaySpring

TODAY

SUMMER 2008

COMMUNICATING DAYSPRING

In some ways, DaySpring is one of the best kept secrets in west-central Florida. That is about to change. New Interim Executive Director, Dr. Charles Wallace, is developing a comprehensive communications plan that will let hundreds, perhaps even thousands, learn about DaySpring and all that it has to offer as a camp and conference center. "We want to reach out to hundreds of churches, schools and community organizations in our part of Florida and let them know what an amazing resource we have here in Manatee County. We also want to reach out to national and international ministries and organizations who would love to meet in Florida, especially during the winter months." The internet will play a key role in the strategy. "It's quick, cost effective and the best way to reach the most people with our message," said Wallace. Our web site, www.dayspringfla.org, will be redesigned and new features added, such as a calendar that will show when DaySpring has openings. "I've learned since taking over as Interim Director that some people think it's hard to get reservations at



Dr. Charles Wallace, DaySpring Interim Executive Director

DaySpring will also be revamping its monthly newsletter "DaySpring Today". It has been published since 2003 and will continue as a quarterly publication, primarily going out to Episcopal audiences. A new monthly publication, tentatively called "DaySpring LIFE", will be sent via email to a much larger audience. It will highlight important events and retreats at DaySpring as well as keeping readers up to date on space availability. "DaySpring is a wonderful asset but it must serve more groups in order to remain financially healthy and accomplish its mission as an important part of the outreach ministry of the Diocese. DaySpring is doing a great job, but we can do better, and we will," said Wallace.

DaySpring. Sometimes it is, especially on short notice and on week-ends in the spring and fall, but you would be surprised by our availability. The new calendar feature will help people see open dates at a glance," said Wallace.

INTERSTATE ACCIDENT CAUSES DELAYS GETTING TO DAYSPRING

On June 4, a tragic tanker accident took the life of a trucker and shut down Interstate 75 at exit 224, the exit that serves DaySpring. The truck burst into flames causing extensive damage to the south bound span of the U.S. Highway 301 overpass. Initially, traffic was detoured off the Interstate but within several days temporary lanes were set up allowing drivers to pass while the damaged overpass was removed and a new one built. Repairs are expected to be complete in mid to late July. In the meantime, the speed limit has been reduced in the area near the construction.



Overpass replacement at U.S Highway 301 and Interstate 75 will cause delays until the end of July.

STAFF CHANGES IN JUNE

Long time DaySpring Reservations Director Christie Woodring retired in June. Christie plans to do some traveling and a lot of babysitting for her newest grandchild. She has been replaced by Assistant Reservations Director Angela Green who joined DaySpring in July 2006. Angela was born and raised in nearby Palmetto. She and her husband have seven children. DaySpring also said goodbye to Michelle Mercurio who was often the first person guests saw as they came to the reception desk. Michelle will remain close to DaySpring in her new position as administrative support to Youth Ministries at the Diocesan office. She has been succeeded by Sohaila Baharloo who was responsible for front desk operations in the evening. Congratulations, many thanks, and best wishes to all.



New Reservations Director Angela Green



Deacon Katherine Tate (right)
and Summer Camp Staff prepare for Camp

SUMMER CAMPS BRING YOUTH TO DAYSPRING

The first session of the Diocesan Summer Camp got underway on June 15. This session was for youth in grades 3-6. Youth in grades 7-12 were scheduled to come the following week. The theme of both camps is "Grace Upon Grace." Director of Youth Ministries the Rev. Katherine Tate said this year new activities have been added including visits by clowns from the Circus Hall of Fame in nearby Sarasota. The camps are once again a joint venture with the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida. A number of camps will be held at DaySpring this summer. In July, DaySpring will host Camp Joy for children living in area homeless shelters; Camp Belonging Place, for children of prison inmates; and Camp Able for handicapped children and young adults.

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