

# “Come Away to the Quiet” Retreat

Experiencing “Come Away to the Quiet” through...

This retreat provides a wonderful opportunity to experience the essence of what Hopewood is all about—the reason that we believe God has called Hopewood into existence at this point in time. For too long, those of us in the Church have had wonderful teaching, yet often unknowingly, our “hearts have been far from Him.” While we have dutifully studied the scripture, many of us have neglected the quiet times we hold to be so important. We talk about having “our time with the Lord” and grab a quick devotion over coffee with a few verses before running off for the day. But how often do we take the time to linger with our Lord, to offer Him our undistracted devotion, and spend some time waiting on Him? Consider how we might evaluate the quality of a relationship where one person did all the talking.

This retreat is an opportunity to enjoy a two-way relationship with God, to simply be with Him, to wait upon Him and to learn to listen to His voice. It is recovering what we call the “lost art of solitude.” “Come Away to the Quiet” is just one way we encourage this practice.

Our “Come Away to the Quiet” retreat is usually held on the second weekend of November. Call for dates and space availability at 440-984-4673.



Worship

Group Study



*“This weekend is wonderful, in that it allows and encourages us to commune with God.”*

*Bill Doebele*



Quiet Time

## Our Invitation to You

This special edition includes some of the highlights of past Hopewood Harbinger Newsletters. We hope that it has given you a taste of the spirit and substance of our ministry, a little of where we have been, where we are now and where we would like to go in the future. Our prayer is that you might capture the vision as well. If any of the offerings of Hopewood capture your interest, we would love to hear from you. Please consider this your personal invitation to give us a call and discover how you can personally take part in any of our ministry opportunities or to simply learn more about us.

## Our Mission and Vision

### Our Mission

Hopewood is a nonprofit, Christian organization dedicated to offering opportunities for personal renewal and spiritual refreshment and to assist those seeking wholeness and deeper intimacy with God.

### Our Vision

Recognizing that Jesus Himself needed to periodically go away to a quiet place, the vision of Hopewood is to help people who are distracted by the frantic pace of life find the privacy, serenity and support they need for spiritual refreshment, restoration and direction. A variety of retreats will be offered, both structured and unstructured, including Bible studies, workshops, days of prayer and silent retreats.



**As a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization, Hopewood Retreat Ministries operates solely on tax deductible donations. Hopewood Retreat Ministries, Inc. P.O. Box 1122 Amherst, OH 44001 (440) 984-4673**

*All financial gifts are needed, appreciated and receipted.*

Special Edition Newsletter



# Hopewood Retreat Ministries

## Who We Are...



Co-Founders:  
Keith and Carol Klekota

Keith and Carol Klekota founded Hopewood Retreat Ministries in 2000 with the ultimate vision of providing a place for individuals to stay for short periods of time in order to experience what it means when the scripture says “be still and know that I am God.” The still, small voice of our Lord can easily be drowned out amidst the clamor of daily life—especially when we encounter painful and often confusing events in life such as the loss of a loved one through death or divorce, career changes and job stresses, when children leave home or when a family member suddenly requires extraordinary care. Sometimes we face issues that

require privacy and confidentiality and long for a place that understands this. And, all of us, at one time or another, may sense the “call to the quiet” to enter into a deeper fellowship with our Lord and receive His fresh direction for our lives. For many, finding a safe place for this purpose can be difficult and that is why we believe God has called Hopewood into existence.

Our goal is to provide a place conducive for this peaceful retreat --one that is accessible yet secluded by God’s creation. We envision a facility that would hold approximately 12 people, no more than 20 in order to preserve the privacy and tranquility. In the meantime, Hopewood offers a variety of retreats for emotional and spiritual wellness in order to serve the community of believers and to bring awareness of our mission and vision.



## “Where We Are Now”

A primary focus at this point is raising awareness of the importance of solitude and periodic extended time with the Lord. While there are a few places around the country similar to what we envision, it is not a familiar concept in today’s high speed world. Therefore, **off site retreats** offer practical ways to introduce these concepts along with our mission and vision. Currently, Carol holds one-day retreats for personal and spiritual growth. Together, Keith and Carol host **“Come Away to the Quiet,”** a retreat in Amish country where 20-30 people can experience a weekend especially designed for taking a day alone with God. Separate men’s and women’s weekly spiritual formation groups are also offered periodically throughout the year.

The Lord has also given us another wonderful way of communicating our purpose and plans — the **“Quiet Place”** at 1743 North Ridge Road in Vermilion (just west of Baumhart Road).

This quaint little cottage enables us to have a ministry office and a separate quiet room that affords an accessible, private spot for individuals to come for special times of prayer, reading, journaling or simply resting in God’s presence. The “quiet room” can be reserved for full or half days at no cost (although donations are appreciated). Limited counseling appointments are also offered on site through CJ Hendry and Associates of Westlake, the practice with which Carol is affiliated.



1743 N. Ridge Rd. Vermilion, OH 44089



**Call Today!**  
**(440) 984-4673**

**To reserve your day at the Cottage.**

## “Looking Ahead”

Expanding the “quiet room” concept to a location that would include overnight accommodations is the “long view” for Hopewood. A tranquil, secluded setting for no more than 20 people at one time is desired for providing a quiet, private atmosphere for days of prayer and personal retreat. Spiritual direction and the development of a prayer ministry are also envisioned. We are excited about the future of HOPEWOOD and all that God has for His people through a quiet, private place set apart for time with Him.

The summer of 2003, we visited a few retreat ministries similar to what we have envisioned for Phase II of Hopewood. What we saw confirmed the real need and opportunity for a “quiet place” retreat in this area of the country. Pastors, counselors, caregivers of every variety as well as everyday folks are finding it not just a luxury but a real necessity to spend a few extended, undistracted hours with the Lord in a private, quiet place seeking His direction and renewal for their personal, professional and ministry lives.

We truly believe that the ultimate vision of Hopewood will come about as a result of God’s people capturing the vision of Hopewood and coming together according to their faith and means to provide the finances and talent necessary for:

1. Property that is peaceful and fairly easy to access (i.e. without the dull roar of the turnpike)
2. Initially at least a meeting room, kitchen and bath for small group retreats, and reasonable facilities for overnight accommodations
3. Ideally 4-5 bedrooms/ 4-5 baths to start— with potential to expand to not more than 20 people at one time
4. Caretakers’ living quarters

5. Minimum of 3 acres of land—preferably 10-20 acres—at least partially wooded
6. Inviting surroundings and approach to the property that would instill sense of rest and safety
7. Cost efficient maintenance
8. Views or surrounding area that would be inspiring for worship and prayer—lake, pond, hillside, etc.

As we have looked at various properties in the area, it appears if we are to pay market value, we are somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500,000 and up. Anything less has serious shortcomings and would require additional funds over time to make it suitable for our purposes. Although a large amount, we have seen and read of the many miracles God has done in the lives of His people over the centuries. In addition, it is our conclusion (which was also confirmed in our visits with other retreat ministries), that we should not incur debt. So, while we are eager for the next phase to begin, we also humbly submit ourselves to God’s timing and provision.



In hopeful anticipation of God’s moving in the hearts of His people, the PINE CONE FUND has been established. Will you pray with us that the “pine cone” donations of these early days will grow into a mature tree for God’s glory? Perhaps you or someone you know would like to help make this vision a reality. You can help through involvement in the “Founding Fifty” (see below) or through special gifts to the Pine Cone Fund. Either way you will be part of bringing a facility like we have described into our area. Although the goal is large, we know all things belong to the Lord, and we are hopeful that in His time and with your help, it can be reached. For now, we encourage you and others to join with us in this “adventure.” Together, let’s watch and pray expectantly for God to give the increase!

## How You Can Help: The “Founding Fifty”

When Hopewood Retreat Ministries began, we were truly blessed to have several one time gifts and a few people who began donating to the ministry on a regular monthly basis. Through their prayers and financial devotion, we were inspired to establish the “Founding Fifty” as a support base upon which to build the ministry. We consider those who support the vision of Hopewood through their regular encouragement, prayers and financial gifts as actually “founding” the ministry of Hopewood. God is confirming the vision He has put in our hearts through those of you who participate in building its foundation.

Our initial concept was that with fifty people willing to commit themselves to \$50\* a month, we could establish a workable budget to

initiate what God has laid on our hearts to do. We are grateful that we now have approximately 1/2 of our needed support at this time. If you believe God is leading you to be a part of the “Founding Fifty” through prayer and/or financial giving, we would love to welcome you as part of the “founding” team. You will be joining with those who are helping make the vision of Hopewood a reality. Please pray with us that the Lord will raise up His “Founding Fifty” and make the ultimate “vision” of Hopewood a reality.

\* Any monthly amount will be appreciated and considered part of our “Founding Fifty.”