



**SHEPHERD'S  
CANYON** RETREAT  
MINISTRY  
ARIZONA & MISSOURI

Spring 2026

*"We were under great pressure,  
far beyond our ability to endure...  
But this happened that we might  
not rely on ourselves, but on God...  
He will continue to deliver us."  
2 Corinthians 1:8-10*

# BIG NEWS!

## Arizona



### READY, SET, WAIT... WAIT... WAIT... GO!

Many of us watched the Olympics. In a race we expect to hear, "Ready. Set. Go!" but in life, **God often says, "Wait"** even if we don't understand His reasons at first.

**"Commit your way to the LORD... Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him..." Psalm 37:5, 7**

Because of COVID, necessary design changes, and layers of bureaucracy, the permit we first applied for in 2020 took years longer than we expected. But we are grateful to share that it has now been approved, and we can finally begin building the **Bill & Lucille Sapp Lodge!**

As you can imagine, **construction costs have risen dramatically since 2020.** The funds raised back then no longer cover what's needed today, so we're asking you to join us as God moves this long-awaited project."

### What can you do?

- Pray for an outpouring of financial blessings!
- Give above & beyond your usual gift.
- Thank God for the progress that is being made.
- Pray for safety for the workers.

## Missouri

### We have Bad News and God's News

The **Bad News** is that Shepherd's Canyon was denied a Special Use Permit to use the property we were blessed with last year in Missouri. This means that we are now selling the Lake Ozark property. But we don't want to dwell on the bad news-- because there is also **God's News.**

**We are struck down but not destroyed.  
2 Corinthians 4:9**



**God's News** is that none of this surprised Him. He is still blessing Shepherd's Canyon and He's had something else in mind for us all along.

After exploring many options, we've found a wonderful location with more rooms, more acres, more square footage, and it is furnished.

### Now we will need donations for:

- 20 armchairs - \$400 each (see concept photo above)
- 3 King beds - \$750 each
- Adding a deck & screened porch with a hot tub
- Making a bedroom and bath ADA-compliant
- Kayaks, canoes, and a water trampoline

## RETIRING MINISTRY SERVANTS

Dick & Blenda retired at the end of 2025 and Phil and Jill will retire at the end of 2026. **Dick, Phil, Blenda, and Jill:** *Thank you for the ways you have loved, served, and strengthened this ministry. Your impact will continue in the lives of countless church workers who found hope and healing through Shepherd's Canyon Retreat.*



### **Dick Dasen – Bookkeeper -**

Some people serve a ministry for a season. Others help carry it from the earliest days—faithfully, quietly, and with a steady hand. Dick Dasen is one of those people. Dick first connected through his work doing bookkeeping for Fellowship Ministries before continuing in that role for Shepherd's Canyon.

Dick's greatest joy has been watching a ministry that started as an idea in Dave Anderson's mind grow into a significant work throughout the Christian community. He also shares "As Shepherd's Canyon grows, we often face situations that only the provision of God can overcome. Barb and Dave, and now Kevin and Tawn, always assure us that God is in control, we need only trust." Dick says he will miss being involved in the daily challenges, but it's comforting to know things are going well and the future is bright.



### **Pastor Phil Lee, LMFT –**

Phil has been a therapist and leading Shepherd's Canyon retreats since almost the very beginning, 17 years. A longtime friend of co-founder Dave Anderson since age 15, Phil had heard the vision for Shepherd's Canyon for years,

especially as a fellow "PK" (pastor's kid) who understood the deep need for safe, Christ-centered care for ministry leaders. When Dave invited therapists to Phoenix in 2008 to share that vision, Phil was all in.

Phil's two great joys are the fellow therapists he has come to know and the countless participants from many ministry backgrounds who have discovered God's promise of renewed hope and joy in life and ministry. Shepherd's Canyon has deepened his own spiritual walk—after experiencing God's merciful healing following a painful season in his pastoral ministry, he came to see how God could use that suffering to increase empathy and strengthen his ability to walk with others toward hope and healing. Phil calls Shepherd's Canyon "sacred ground," a vital place where wounded servants can recover in the good news of Jesus Christ.



**Blenda Keylon** - Since 2009, Blenda Keylon has been part of the Shepherd's Canyon story—serving as a therapist with warmth, prayer, and a steady presence that helped weary church workers feel safe, seen, and cared for.

She first connected to SCR through a colleague who encouraged Dave Anderson to reach out and invite her into the mission. That introduction led to a meaningful season of ministry alongside professional church workers who often arrived carrying heavy burdens.

Blenda's greatest joy was sharing God's love, peace, and blessings with those who serve the Church. And like so many who give care here, Blenda found herself cared for, too. She says SCR helped her tremendously in her own faith walk—reminding us, "The teacher always learns more than their students." Walking with people through their storms and hearing the pain they carry was deeply humbling. Blenda also treasures the gift of serving within a faith-based staff community, friends in Christ that she will cherish for a lifetime.



**Jill Dodge, LCSW** - Jill has always had a special place in her heart for church professionals. With a father, grandfather, and two uncles who were pastors, she understood some of the unique challenges of ministry life. During her 12

years as a therapist at Shepherd's Canyon, she has learned even more about the burdens many church workers carry. She says "I have so much respect for the retreat participants' vulnerability and willingness to reach out for help rather than suffer in silence."

With 50 years as a therapist, Jill is still amazed by what God can do in a single retreat week. She has repeatedly seen significant transformation in just a few days, the kind of progress that would normally take months in weekly counseling. She attributes that fruit to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jill is grateful for Shepherd's Canyon's unwavering vision to provide support and care for those in ministry. She is thankful for the dedicated volunteers, the peace she feels when she arrives on the property and the therapists she has had the privilege to partner with and will miss dearly. Jill is excited to see the ministry expanding into the Midwest, and she continues to pray God's blessing over the leaders, staff, and every participant who comes in need of hope and healing.

## Dear Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Friends and Donors,

I would like to **thank you** from the bottom of my heart for the scholarship that helped me attend a Retreat earlier this year. My week at Shepherd's Canyon Retreat was **life-changing**. The Holy Spirit used the therapists, chaplain, staff, and even the other attendees to lovingly show me that my problems were much deeper than the ministry burnout that initially brought me to Wickenburg... Thank you, donors and friends of Shepherd's Canyon for being **an answer to my prayer.**"

~From a pastor's wife who attended an SCR retreat



## Two Vehicles Donated

We are so blessed that we are now using two vehicles donated by **Roger & Luana Senske** (left) and **Rev. Randy & Carlene Bencotter** (right). These vehicles will be great for transporting guests and groceries, etc. - Thanks!!



# thrivent<sup>®</sup>

## Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent member, please don't forget to direct your **Choice Dollars** to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat by March 31, 2026. Go to: **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice** or call **800-847-4836** and say "Thrivent Choice."

## In Loving Memory of:

**Douglas Baker** - given by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wagener

**Douglas Baker** - given by Doris Blumenkamp

**Holton Harders** - given by Nancy Harders

**Ralph Spomer** - given by Brian Spomer

**Wayne Stoltz** given by Dave & Barb Anderson

## In Honor of:

**Mrs. Judy Neiderwimmer** given by Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Nicely

**Dave & Barb Anderson's 50th Anniversary** - given by Marcia Kjesbu

**Dave & Barb Anderson's 50th Anniversary** - given by Gloria Fern

## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. HONOR YOUR VALUES.

Write your Last Will and Testament for FREE, courtesy of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat.

Go to: [MyLegacyWill.com/ShepherdsCanyon](https://MyLegacyWill.com/ShepherdsCanyon)



**Did you know that we can accept non-cash gifts (land, houses, etc.)?  
Contact Tawn Buelmann for more information at [Tawn@ShepherdsCanyon.org](mailto:Tawn@ShepherdsCanyon.org).**

## Gifts Without Names

Sometimes we receive a check from a financial institution, but it doesn't say who the person is who gave the money. If you gave in such a way and didn't receive a word of thanks from us, this may be the situation. Please know that we're extremely grateful for your gift!



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Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**Phone: 480-588-8837**

**EIN # 26-393-0639**



Can you find the owl nestled in our palm tree?  
Shepherd's Canyon is a safe place  
for those in ministry to share struggles  
that others can't always see.



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**Jennie Williamson  
in Concert**

**You're invited!**

**Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon**

**Saturday, March 21, 2026 | Noon–3:00 PM**

**Shepherd's Canyon – Standing Stones**

Enjoy a free lunch by the pool, meaningful music, powerful testimonies,  
and a ministry update as we celebrate what God is doing.

**Please RSVP: [ShepherdsCanyon.org/celebration](https://ShepherdsCanyon.org/celebration)**

