



MO-MESSENGER

stay connected with Mo-Ranch news



A SEASON OF GROWTH FOR MO



Camp leads the path to success

IN TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN WORLD, WHAT ARE THE SKILLS THAT GIVE KIDS THE UPPER HAND IN TODAY'S WORKFORCE?

Twenty-first-century skills are defined as the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be competitive in the modern-day workforce. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills—also known as P21—is a nonprofit organization based in Washington D.C. that's comprised of some of the biggest, most successful businesses in the USA. P21 researched and compiled a list of the specific skills that these companies seek in their new hires and came back with four key areas: collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication.

Research shows that summer camp provides a unique environment for campers to develop these skills and thrive. This research comes as no surprise to Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly's President, Dick Powell.

"There's a lot of behind-the-scenes value that's the real power of camp. Sure, we love when kids talk about all the friends they made and the fun they had during their time at camp—but it's so much more than that. When campers think they are spending the summer simply having fun, they often have no idea the character, social and communication skills they are building at the same time, or the spiritual impact camp made on them," said Powell.

Since 1977, Mo-Ranch Summer Camp has been

enriching children's lives by teaching new skills, personal development and spiritual growth; that's right, we've been improving the lives of campers for 40 years!

Mo-Ranch Summer Camp's programming is intentionally tailored to give campers the skills they need for success. They have opportunities to make decisions for themselves, think outside the box, collaborate and communicate as a team—all while being unplugged from technology, inside a safe Christian community.

"It's all about the personal development of a child. The skills and spiritual growth they take away will last a lifetime, and the friendships they made and fun they had are a bonus," said Powell.

Camp is becoming more important for the development of children than ever before, and the numbers reflect this. Mo-Ranch Summer Camp experienced the largest number of campers in the history of its camp with 837 total campers attending Mo-Ranch camp programs in summer 2017.

We hope to continue this growth for camp and exceed 1,000 campers in just our overnight program with time. However, we do have some growing pains ahead of us—to make this goal a reality, there's \$750,000 worth of work in order to update Loma Linda, and we'll need to add additional camp lodging for our older campers.





Moving Mo-Ranch's ministry beyond the banks of the Guadalupe River

We know it's not always feasible to get to Hunt for camp, so Mo-Ranch delivered! We packed our bags and headed to the Rio Grande Valley for a week of Mo-Ranch Camp in the Valley for the second year in a row. We were able to accommodate 69 campers—almost double the campers from 2016!



Thank you, First Presbyterian Church of Lampasas, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Mission Presbytery, Second Presbyterian Church, St. Philip, Synod of the Sun and countless individual contributions for making this experience possible!

SUMMER CAMP 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



Women's Conference



MO-RANCH CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Junior High Jubilee



Mo-TLC



Youth Celebration



Men's Conference



Multicultural Youth Conference



Mo/PAM Worship & Music Conference



ART @ Mo



Young Adult Weekend

2018 Mo-Ranch Schedule

January

Polar Bear Challenge Jan 1

February

Silent Directed Retreat Feb 9-11
 Mo-Mance Couples' Retreat Feb 16-18
 Needlework & Knitting Retreat Feb 22-25
 Comfort & Hope for the Journey of Grief Feb 23-25

March

"Telling Your Story" Writing Retreat Mar 2-5
 Spring Break Getaway Mar 10-18
 Photography in the Texas Hill Country Mar 21-25

April

Easter @ Mo Apr 1
 Spring Quilting Retreat Apr 16-20
 Spring Painting Retreat Apr 26-29

May

Men's Conference May 4-6
 Bible Study Conference May 31-Jun 1

June

Women's Conference Jun 1-3
 Mo-Ranch Summer Camp Jun 3-Jul 21
 Mo-Ranch Day Camp Jun 4-Aug 10
 Mo-Teen Leadership Conference Jun 10-15
 Mo/PAM Worship & Music Conference Jun 17-22
 Youth Celebration Jun 24-29

July

Junior High Jubilee I Jul 1-5
 Multicultural Youth Conference Jul 5-8
 Junior High Jubilee II Jul 8-12
 ART @ Mo Jul 15-20
 Grand Camp Jul 22-26
 Mo-Ranch Camp in the Valley Jul 23-28
 Couples in Ministry Jul 29-Aug 3

August

College Connection Aug 31-Sep 3

September

Fall Quilting Retreat Sep 17-21
 Fall Painting Retreat Sep 20-23
 Young Adult Weekend Sep 21-23

October

Single Again Moms' Retreat Oct 5-7
 Praying in Color Retreat Oct 12-14
 Small Church Pastor's Retreat Oct 15-18
 Fall Photography Weekend Oct 19-21

November

Clay Week Retreat Nov 4-9
 A Safe Place: Retreat for Bereaved Parents Nov 9-11
 Thanksgiving @ Mo Nov 22-25

December

Crafts for Christmas Retreat Nov 29-Dec 2



WILL YOU HELP MO CONTINUE TO GROW?

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly had a wonderful year of growth with its largest summer yet, but the work is far from done. Mo-Ranch hopes to grow its overnight camp to 1,000 children a year by 2025, and continue to expand its program and conference offerings.

We cannot do it without you—our wonderful donors. Unrestricted gifts allow Mo-Ranch the greatest flexibility to meet its most urgent needs.

Please consider making a donation to fund the future of Mo-Ranch! Be on the lookout for our fall appeal over the next few weeks, or respond today with the envelope included in this newsletter.

Sneak peek of keynote speakers for Mo-Ranch programs in 2018



Bruce Reyes-Chow
Youth Celebration



Dr. Jackie Roes
Women's Conference



Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake
Men's Conference



Gail Worsham Pitt & Kathy Koellein
Silent Directed Retreat

moranch.org/attend



A monumental *day at Mo*



Friday, April 21, 2017, marked a day of remembrance at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly as the dedication of the columbarium took place at Serenity Hill. Mo-Ranch's board of trustees, staff and friends gathered together for the dedication of the site.

The columbarium is located on top of Serenity Hill in the beautiful wide-open spaces of Mo-Ranch and overlooks the crystal-clear waters of the Guadalupe River. Designed in the shape of a cross, the columbarium provides niches for urns around the perimeter of the cross itself. Other memorial opportunities at Serenity Hill include in-ground interment, scattering ashes and memorial plaques.

If you're interested in more information about Serenity Hill's columbarium, interment or memorial options, contact Mo-Ranch at 1.800.460.4401. Please ask to speak to the Serenity Hill administrator during your call to be transferred to the appropriate department.

The application for Serenity Hill and additional information can also be found online on Mo-Ranch's website at moranch.org/columbarium.



“ Over the past year, excitement grew as the columbarium took shape at Serenity Hill. Now, it is finished and, overlooking the Guadalupe, it's one of the most striking features of the Mo-Ranch campus.

The simple design incorporating the Alpha and Omega—the beginning and end—captures the affirmation that our days are watched over by God who goes before us and remains with us when our earthly journey ends.

With its completion, the columbarium provides a spectacular site for remembering loved ones who have joined the great cloud of witnesses.

Sibyl and I are pleased with the foresight of those who envisioned a columbarium for Mo and have led the process for its development.

Because of the significance of Mo-Ranch in countless lives, Sibyl and I have chosen the columbarium at Serenity Hill as our final resting place. On Serenity Hill, thanksgiving flows peacefully, like a river. ”

— Bill Galbraith

Families disconnect from technology to reconnect together at Mo-Ranch



With technology always at our fingertips, it's so easy for us to constantly be checking our work emails, social media and text messages when we're supposed to be checking out.

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is a great place to disconnect from the technological world that interferes with quality family time and reconnect with your loved ones!

"We've had a massive increase in individual reservations and family reunions at the ranch. Guests that have come with a group to Mo before are discovering they can come back and enjoy the ranch together as a family, and new families are starting traditions by hosting their reunions here," said Julie Chapa, director of sales.

Because of the increased demand for family-style lodging, two of the ranch's properties were recently converted for its guests. Chicken Roost and Gatehouse were renovated and added to the ranch's lodging in May 2017. Chicken Roost is located directly beside Nicklos Barn, making it the perfect sister property for families to rent out, while Gatehouse shares the stunning views seen from the columbarium at Serenity Hill.



Lodging improvements continue

Forty hotel room renovations were completed this spring, finishing the remaining rooms in Wynne/Flato. These improvements were made possible because of you! There are many more improvements to be done around the ranch, and \$275,000 will complete the 15 remaining hotel rooms in Pheasant Run. A gift of \$15,000 will dedicate a room in someone's honor—you can help get us there!



STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE

Each year, Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly honors members and new inductees of The Circle M Club—a new legacy group that was created in 2016 to sustain the mission of Mo-Ranch—with an event that’s hosted in conjunction with the April board of trustees meeting.

Mo-Ranch thanks those who have made the decision to leave their mark on Mo-Ranch through a designated planned gift, ensuring this sacred place will be here for generations to come.



Mo-Ranch’s Circle M Club Honorees

Clarice Amann
Laurie & Robert Bruce
Robert & LaJuana Carabasi
Stan & Carolyn Cobbs
Kay Craig
Harlan & Janett Crouse
Jack Currie
Thomas & Peggy Currie
Marty & Debbie Davis
Clyde Day
George Dishman † & Judy Dishman
Fane Downs
David & Linda Evans
Jay Evans
John Evans
Keith Fletcher & Lane Ferrero Fletcher
Jeanie Flowers
Sarah & Byron French
Rebecca & Ronald Gafford
John & Shelley Galbraith
William & Sibyl Galbraith
Clifford Grum † & Mary Kay Grum
Malcolm & Judy Hall
Charlotte Marx Harper & Michael Harper
Carolyn Harte
Joan & Chuck Hudson
G. Phillip Huey
Jack & Alice Hunnicutt
Julia Jordan
Sally & C. M. Jordan
Sam & Adele Junkin
Karen Langley
David & Diane Marx

Ray & Laurie McDonald
David & Ida McElroy
Otis & Marilyn Moore
George & Nesha Morey
Alfred & Cathy Morgan
Phyllis Morgan
Michael & Mary Murray
Jerry Newbold
Mary Northern †
M. Bookman & Florence Peters
Selser Pickett † & Yvonne Pickett †
William & Elizabeth Poe
Dick & Lynne Powell
Edwin & Angeline Richmond
Robert & Fran Shelton
Judy Skaggs
Leven & Brenda Staples
Kevin & Margaret Starnes
Mary Morgan Sullivan & George Sullivan
Connie & William Watkins
Jeanne West
Melanie Williamson
Marilyn Woodhouse
Geoffrey & Lacy Wright
Walter & Martha Richardson
George Holland † & Trish Holland

† Denotes Circle M Club members who have joined the Church Triumphant



**THANK YOU FOR LEAVING
YOUR MARK ON MO-RANCH
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!**



**Circle M Club Members,
Linda and David Evans,
share why they've made
the decision to leave
their mark on Mo**

“ Mo-Ranch has been my home away from home for over 50 years. My journey began in August of 1966 as I eased my dad's Impala onto the old low-water crossing just above the crystal-clear waters of the North Fork of the Guadalupe River and through the old gate by the pump house. I did not know then, but soon discovered, that I had passed through a 'portal' into a magical world, much like the one Lucy discovered when she stepped through the doors of an old wardrobe as in 'The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe,' C.S. Lewis' first book of his Narnia series.

Beside me that day was a pretty brown-eyed brunette coed who would later become my wife, and in the back seat was another couple who would also wed and become our lifelong best friends. The four of us had just completed our freshman year of college and had come to Mo-Ranch for its college conference. I had a broken arm that was the result of an ill-fated dive into third base during the last game of summer baseball, but that did not deter me from wrapping plastic around my plaster cast and hurling myself down the water slide.

Since then, I have coaxed countless fearful, but willing, children to make their way down that same slide over the years, including my own grandchildren. Then, I graduated from college and went away to the East Coast for nine long years, and when we moved back to Texas in the late '70s, Linda and I immediately introduced our children to Mo-Ranch.

Since 1966, I have made the winding drive across low water crossings and down FM 1340 more times than I can count. No longer do I have to slow down at the North Fork of the Guadalupe when I arrive at Mo-Ranch. I sail across a new 'high' bridge and feast my eyes on the water

slide and Guest Lodge to the right and the rapids to the left before entering that magic 'portal' that is Mo-Ranch.

I have attended and led countless workshops, conferences and retreats there. I did almost all of my doctor of ministry coursework in Manor House. My colleague group, the Nicklos Place Friends, has met—guess where—at Mo-Ranch the last week of October for 36 years. These are the deepest friendships of my life.

And best of all, I have seen the transformative power of Jesus Christ work in the lives of people I love. I have to confess that my years at Mo-Ranch have even changed my understanding of baptism. We all know, in order to be a Christian in the Presbyterian tradition, you must be sprinkled at the baptismal font. But you only become a 'Texas Presbyterian' when you are immersed in the sacred waters of the Guadalupe by slipping and sliding down the rapids or by racing head-long down the water slide and discovering in a moment of panic that your life truly belongs to God and no other.

I hope I inspire all of you to drive through the 'portal' and immerse yourself in the healing waters of the North Fork of the Guadalupe River. ”

-David & Linda Evans



Joining The Circle M Club ensures that others will experience the magic of Mo, just as you have. If you have any questions about designating a gift, or if you already have Mo-Ranch in your future plans, please contact Caitlin Hueber at 830.459.3019 or crhueber@moranch.org





Ron & Rebecca Gafford

Rebecca Gafford and her husband, Ron, have Presbyterian roots that run deep with Mo history from years of visiting the ranch. Rebecca has been visiting the ranch since the mid-1950s when she was a little girl, and still finds herself being called back to visit, year after year.

“Through my eyes as a child, I was in awe by the whole place, and now, as an adult, I still am,” said Rebecca. Rebecca’s parents first met at a 1935 Synod youth conference at Westminster Encampment in Kerrville—the precursor Presbyterian conference center to Mo-Ranch—and their adventures began at Mo soon after its opening.

The Gaffords have had the pleasure of watching their two children grow up along the pristine waters of the Guadalupe River, just as Rebecca’s parents did with her.

“Seeing our two children discover Mo-Ranch as their own special place, too, is a memory that I will continue to cherish. They attended youth conferences throughout junior high and high school, and then returned in leadership roles when they were in college and beyond. We were so privileged to witness that from the ‘sidelines,’ and we hope our four grandsons will find Mo-Ranch to be a special place for themselves,” said Rebecca.

In addition to the memories of watching her children grow, Rebecca enjoys reminiscing about the times she spent at the Mo-Ranch Women’s Conferences and heartwarming memories with her family that include the dedication of the cross in celebration of her parents’ 66th wedding anniversary that now sits in Mo-Ranch’s prayer tank.

Ron first encountered Mo through his visits to the ranch with their children, but it was the Mo-Ranch Men’s Conference that really made the ranch his special place.

Mo-Ranch SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

“The ranch is such a welcoming place! I look forward to attending the men’s conference each year. The atmosphere is perfectly conducive for multigenerational worship and play—it’s like no other. It’s also been a great time for fellowship with the other men who attend the conference from Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church,” said Ron.

Rebecca joined Mo-Ranch’s board of trustees in 2000 and has served as the vice-chair and chair of Mo-Ranch’s board. She also is a former chair of the program committee, and has served on various other committees of the board.

“I volunteer my time to serve on the board because it’s a way for me to do my small part in helping make sure this special place—that has meant so much to me, my family, members of our congregation and so many thousands of others in the past—will sustainably continue its mission for many generations to come. The ministry of Mo-Ranch is so unique—the breadth, depth and quality of the programming planned and provided by the entire staff and the multitude of volunteers—that’s the heart of Mo-Ranch. Just look at the calendar of programming for any given year—it’s amazing what goes on here! The possibilities of the outreach of the ministry of Mo-Ranch are endless! I cannot think of a more exciting and life-changing ministry to support. Mo-Ranch needs everyone’s support—financially now and in their estate plans for the future—to be able to continue its ministry now and for future generations. No gift of time or resources is too small to make an impact,” said Rebecca.



Help Mo-Ranch raise \$20,000 for its Creative Arts Program on Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global day dedicated to giving, and it's celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping events.

On Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2017, Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is participating in this global movement and is raising funds to renovate its beloved Art Generator—an 85-year-old historical building where youth and adults, alike, create art! What's even better is that Mo-Ranch has a donor who is willing to match raised funds up to \$10,000!

Each summer, hundreds of youth gather in the Art Generator and sweat while learning new artistic skills. The Art Generator needs updated electrical work, running water, proper-fitting doors, new windows and central air and heat.

Historical buildings like the Art Generator are integral to Mo-Ranch and its Creative Arts Ministry, which benefits motor skills, language development, decision making, visual learning, inventiveness, cultural awareness, improved academic performance and hand-eye coordination, cognitive abilities and concentration in all ages!

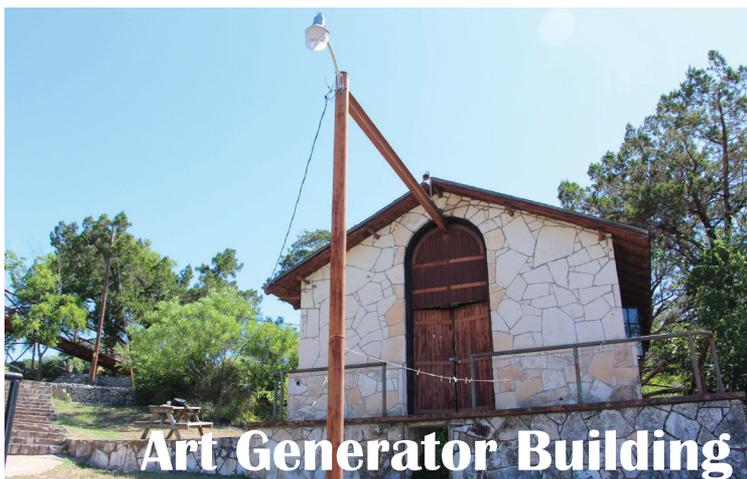
We invite you to join the movement and to help Mo-Ranch reach its \$20,000 goal by giving to Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly on Tuesday, November 28. You can support Mo-Ranch by making your gift online at moranch.org/support.

#moartfortheheart



Remember, your gift can make twice the difference on Giving Tuesday!

#GI[♥]INGTUESDAY™



Art Generator Building



Art Generator Interior



MO-RANCH

2229 FM 1340, Hunt, TX 78024

meet | stay | play | pray

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a teal tank top and a black choker, is smiling and high-fiving a crowd of people. She is in the center of the frame, with her arms raised. The crowd consists of many people, mostly young adults, some wearing blue wristbands. The background is bright and slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor event.

#theresnoplacelikemo

www.moranch.org