

Raphael's Refuge, Inc.

+ *A Place of Healing* +

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Spring Newsletter - 2018

Phase One – With the basic completion of the Chapel, the road network, the Utility Building A (the pump house and restrooms), parking lots, and the beginning of the exterior Memorial Walls, *Phase I* of Raphael's Refuge is drawing to a close. What is top on the list for the next phases depends on donations and their designations. Hopefully *Phase II* will include the completion of the exterior Memorial Walls, the Visitors Center, and a cemetery for miscarried and aborted babies. *Phase III* would then involve a second utility building, two retreat cottages, and a small home for a spiritual counselor.

Construction – At last, praise God, we now have an entrance sidewalk and six Memorial Wall foundations with walks. This construction was made possible by a most generous donation from the Ed and Betty Capen Family Charitable Fund. In time, there will be a total of 12 Memorial Walls and four sidewalks (N, S, E, and W).

Soon final touches for our Cross of Light will be completed. The base will be covered with metal and topped with stone tiling. A formal dedication ceremony has yet to be scheduled.

Work will begin this month on storage closets, a roof extension over the back door, and painting.

Three of our entrance doors have been refinished.

Parking – Parking is no longer available at the Chapel itself. Visitors may park in the two parking lots, at the restrooms, or on the circular road (staying to the outer edge to allow for passing).

Retirement – After July 8, many volunteers will be needed to support the Refuge. Individuals or groups will be needed to maintain the Monument, to oversee construction, to care for plantings, to be in charge of the RV, to write news releases, to maintain the Wildlife Management Plan, to give tours, plus many other tasks. Currently, the wood on the outside of the Monument needs cleaning and re-staining . . . any volunteers? Please let me know if you can help with any of the above, a.s.a.p. Sadly, if volunteers do not come forth or if there are not funds for hiring, the work will go undone.

Baby Block Location – With the labeling of wall sections in the Chapel, it is now easier to locate specific baby blocks. There are two directories on a shelf in the podium in the back room of the Chapel.

New Board Members – Big changes! As of January 20, our Board members are: Debbie Bollom (Shiner), Midge Elam (Flatonia), Hilary Francis (Bryan), Judi Kubena (Yoakum), Rev. Jasper Liggio (Cuero), Therese Marcak (Shiner), Teresa Migl (Leander), Rex Moses (Nassau Bay), Pastor Tim Rowell (Flatonia), R.J. Steinhauser (Flatonia) , and Martin Svatek (Schulenburg). We also have an advisor, former Board member Karen Winget (Liberty Hill).

June 21 Sunlight Event – If you have never experienced this unique blessing, plan to be inside the Chapel by 10:10 a.m. Assuming clouds do not interfere, the sunlight will descend on the mural, lighting the face of the Archangel and then the baby. No service is planned.

Blessings,

Midge

“The whole of our life must come to that one word ‘yes.’ Yes to God: that is holiness. We allow God to take from us whatever He wants and we accept whatever He gives with joy. That is yes in action.”

-Mother Teresa, Heart of Joy