

GHOST RANCH



Ed DeLair (1955-2012) Ghost Ranch Education & Program Director

It is with great sadness that we share that Ed DeLair passed away in his sleep in his house at Ghost Ranch Education & Retreat Center on Wednesday, February 1.

Ed joined Ghost Ranch as Education and Program Director in February of 2011 which fulfilled his utmost dream to live, work and serve at Ghost Ranch in northern New Mexico.

A lifelong Presbyterian, he grew up in Western Pennsylvania with three sisters. He was a special education teacher for five years, including one year in Los Alamos, N.M.

Ed was a camp counselor at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center (Slippery Rock, PA) while he was in college at West Liberty State College.

Ed came to Ghost Ranch as summer College Staff in 1977 and 1978. Becky was also on staff in 1978. That experience changed his life. He and Becky were later married at Ghost Ranch Convocation Hall in 1981. The two came back to Ghost Ranch as College Staff Directors in 1985. Two of their sons also worked on college staff.

He later returned to Crestfield as their summer program director while he attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and has served three pastorates in Western Pennsylvania. Ed served as the Executive Director of Kirkmont Center (Zanesville, OH) for 10 years. He also served as an associate executive Presbyter, Miami Valley Presbytery (OH), 1997-2008. After three years as a pastor in Pennsylvania, he was excited to return to Ghost Ranch as Program Director just last year.

Ed was always involved in camp and conference center ministry and his genuine smile, unending hospitality and his ability to make you feel loved will be missed by so many.

During his short time at Ghost Ranch he endeared staff and was quick to make visitors feel at home.

Ed was known for ending his cards and emails with phrases that demonstrated his compassion and concern for others and most recently always included photos of his beloved Ghost Ranch. "May this day be filled with wonder and peace", "blessings" and "know that you are loved" were his signatures.

Ed included this statement as part of his Ghost Ranch instructor bio:

He is "ever thankful for God's grace, this call and the endless opportunities ever before us as followers of Christ to reflect God's gracious love in a world that desperately longs for Good News!"

For those who were not able to meet Ed, he shared God's love in everything he did and said. This love is highlighted in his book, the revised version of the Little Red Hen who could not get any of the other farm animals to help her with all of the chores involved in the sowing of the seeds, the weeding, the harvesting and the baking of the bread. In the traditional story, the little red hen refuses to share the fruits of her labor. In Ed's version, all are invited to sit at the little red hen's table, to share the bread and enjoy--"and their eyes were opened."

There will be a service for Ed at the Agape Center at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico on Monday, February 6 at 10:30 a.m followed by a gathering and lunch in the dining room.

There will also be a memorial service sometime later next week in Washington, PA. Details will be posted on the Ghost Ranch website when they become available.

We ask that you please keep Ed's wife, Becky, and their four children in your prayers during this difficult time. Contributions to Ghost Ranch in honor of Ed DeLair will go toward a fund that Ed had originally established in memory of his grandfather, Robert Galbreath. The fund will now be the Galbreath/DeLair Series Fund which helps underwrite programs related to peace & justice, pastoral ministry, and biblical interpretation.

Contributions may also be made to Kirkmont Center in Ohio.