

Our plan will be to have the prayer cottage available for use by July 4, 2010. There will much work to be done throughout the summer months, and any volunteer help would be appreciated. Your suggestions help to make it "Our Prayer Cottage", and your donations or participation will give you a vested interest in this project. Here are some of the necessary items and projects to consider:

#### Cottage Construction

Our cottage will arrive on our property prefabricated by Amish carpenters. The inside consists of stud walls, which will need to be insulated. Internal walls and ceiling will need constructed/installed. We will wire it for electricity, but initially there will be no electricity available. The outside will need some landscaping touches, with flowers and/or shrubs and a walkway.

#### Cottage Furnishings Already Provided

- Sofa
- A rocker/recliner
- Small kitchen table and chairs

#### Still Needed

- Night stand
- Single bed and mattress
- Small desk and chair
- Throw rug/carpet
- Bedding
- Wall hangings and scripture plaques

#### Cottage Supplies

- Curtains or blinds
- Butane cook stove
- Butane camping lantern(s)
- Small butane space heater
- Tea pot or kettle, frying pan, sauce pan
- Water jug – for fresh water
- Flatware service for one, coffee mugs, plates
- Broom and dust pan
- Garbage can and plastic bags
- Fire extinguisher

#### Outdoors

- Porta-Potty or Compost Toilet
- Outdoor camping chair
- Small wood stove
- Small porch or deck
- Fire ring for outdoors
- Firewood bundle(s)

Let the main church office know if you have items to donate. Please understand that not all donated items will be suitable for cottage use.

# The Prayer Cottage

***A Quiet Place of  
Simplicity,  
Solitude,  
and  
Silence***



## **Psalms 91:1**

**"He who dwells in the secret place of  
the most High shall abide under the  
shadow of the Almighty."**

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### A Solitary Place to Pray

For several years now, I have been praying about and casting vision for the building of a Prayer Cottage on our church property. There is a reason for this. I am sure we can get along perfectly well without a prayer cottage. Most churches and congregations have never even thought of such a thing. So, why should we provide a secluded prayer cottage anyway? Aren't there better things to build with our money?

### Why Build a Prayer Cottage?

We are living in the busiest and most distracted society that mankind has ever known. We are inundated with an information and communication explosion. From cell phones to TVs and computers, our lives are pressed by the world's noise and messages. Jesus taught us that we should have a prayer closet (Greek-*tameion*: a secret chamber; innermost room) where we can flee for solitude and silence before our Heavenly Father. It is in there that He instructs us to pray in secret and He will reward us openly (Matthew 6:6). If we take Jesus seriously, we must consider that He meant that literally. We all need a secret closet, set aside for prayer, in our homes. Most of us neither have one, nor seek out that private place to pray.

A prayer cottage is a church wide prayer closet. It represents that convenient solitary place where you can retreat, in secret, to seek God alone. It is not feasible that everyone would have room in the house for a prayer closet, though it is highly recommended. At least, this prayer cottage would provide seclusion, solitude, and a place where individuals can secret themselves away with God for 24 hours. This is not a retreat cottage for couples or place where group fellowship occurs. It is expressly limited to fellowship with our Heavenly Father.

### What Is A Prayer Cottage?

Our prayer cottage, as I envision it, is a one room, hermitage cottage with the basics for a 24-hour stay. It is not intended to be a fully-equipped vacation cottage. It is rustic in nature, without plumbing or electricity. It holds only the bare essentials, and though neat and clean, it is not luxurious. The cottage itself measures 10'x20', well suited for one person to get alone with God. The cottage will eventually be insulated for winter and situated in the meadow next to the woods, at the back of our property.

There is no bathroom, running water or electricity. It is a typical early American-style, one room, log cottage, as would have existed 200 years ago (though not necessarily a log building). It is lighted by oil lamps, heated by a small wood stove, and bathroom facilities are a nearby porta-potty.

The cottage has a single bed, a comfortable chair, a small desk and/or table for furnishings. It is kept simple, but neat and attractive. Should there be a need for food, a small cooler and camp cook-stove is sufficient. The small stove could be used for heating water for coffee or tea and for simple meals. Each guest would bring his or her own food and drink.

It is also suggested that each guest bring only essential items, a minimum of "stuff", with him or her. A Bible, notebook/journal, sleeping bag and pillow is all that is necessary.

### Who Can Use the Prayer Cottage?

Anyone who attends Grove City Alliance Church, who is interested in spending time alone with God, should periodically schedule to use the cottage. We recommend three 24-hour stays every year. All may use it without cost. The cottage is for solo prayer times only – no exceptions. There will be no additional guests or partners permitted at any time during one's stay. Additionally, no dogs or pets are allowed.

Any electronic equipment needs to be battery operated. A cell phone is helpful for emergency purposes. The cell phone should remain off during your stay and only turned on in case of an emergency. It is expected that all trash will be removed from the cottage upon departure, and the cottage left clean and neat, as it was upon arrival. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted at any time. Non-compliance with these instructions would cause forfeiture of future cottage use.

### When and How Long Can I Stay?

Anyone from G.C.A.C. can schedule the cottage for a 24-hour stay up to a maximum of three consecutive days. The day begins at 5:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. the next day. On the first day of your scheduled stay, a cottage key may be picked up in the church's main office, or on weekends, the key should be picked up before 4:00 p.m. of the Friday prior to your stay. The cottage may be used year round. Because the cottage will not be heated initially, it will be open only in the spring, summer, and fall seasons. To check availability, just inquire at the G.C.A.C. main office. It is best to plan ahead and schedule ahead.

### How Much Does It Cost To Build?

There are a number of simple shed/cottage and cottage designs suitable for this purpose. The building is considered an "out-building"; thus, it is deliberately not plugged into the power grid and is without indoor plumbing or electric. It would be considered a garden shed and should be built on raised blocks. Depending on the size and design of the cottage, cost estimates for building and completion range between **\$8,000 and \$10,000**. We want to keep the cottage small and simple. Larger or more elaborate designs are not consistent with the intent of simplicity, solitude, and silence.

We have room on our acreage for perhaps as many as three small cottages. However, we will begin with only one and, if it is well received and demand increases, we may build others.

**Donations** above and beyond your regular giving toward this prayer cottage may be made to Grove City Alliance Church with the notation **"Prayer Cottage"** on the memo line. Improvements will be made as funds are available.