



West Branch Trailblazer

Keeping in Touch, Seeking Your Prayer and Involvement

West Branch is a ministry of the Bill Rice Ranch

February 1, 2024

Evangelist Troy Carlson, Director

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Prayer Requests

Filling a summer assistant cook position

Funds for the Rasmussen Crossing Restroom Project

Increased summer camp attendance

Project Status

Rasmussen Crossing – We have received a permit to connect this building to our sanitation system! We are pursuing an estimate on the project cost as well as beginning the installation of interior components.

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 29 Early Registration
Deadline – save \$20 per person by registering in February

Apr. 26-27, 2024 Men on the Move

Apr. 29 – May 11 Senior Trip Retreats

Jun 6 – Jul 23 Summer Camps

westbranchAZ.org

Progress on the Rasmussen Crossing

Back in October 2022, we began the process of appealing to our county for the permit to add the Rasmussen Crossing to the current camp sanitation system. The Crossing is currently being used primarily as an auditorium but has a future purpose of being our kitchen and dining hall as well. While the City of Williams has worked with us to have temporary use of the building, we will not have a permanent occupancy for this auditorium stage until we have functioning bathrooms in the building. Until that is completed, we are required to rent a portable restroom trailer for each summer of use. The rental costs \$4,000+ each summer.

In order to have working bathrooms, there are three aspects of the project to complete: 1) connecting the Crossing to our current sanitation system, 2) adding a water supply, and 3) outfitting the bathrooms. Recently, **Coconino County granted us a permit** to add the entire building even with the future kitchen to the current sanitation system! This is a huge praise because the County told us several years ago that they would *not* permit this, but they changed their minds.

Though we are not ready to do the exterior work due to the lack of funds, we do believe that we can get a reasonable estimate this spring in order to let people know the needs. The installation will include three septic tanks, a pump, and a significant distance of pipe in the ground.



Service in the Rasmussen Crossing last summer

We can do the interior work including installing fixtures in the bathrooms. Some have expressed interest in helping with this portion of the project. Please let us know if you have interest in helping out in this way also. Donations can be made to this project via mail or the Online Donations page at westbranchAZ.org.

Special Needs

- Commercial beverage/merchandise cooler
- Utility dump trailer
- Compact Utility Tractor (e.g. John Deere, Kubota)
- We are always trying to enhance our activity selection. If you have a gently used ping pong, Foosball, or other similar game table that you would be willing to donate, please let us know, especially if you would have the ability to transport it to us!

Thanks to all who have donated items through our Amazon Wish List at the end of last year!!

Stay Connected

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Additional itineraries, schedules, & reports are online.

*Visit westbranchAZ.org to view our new summer camp promotional video: **Re-discovering West Branch!***

Upcoming Ministry in the West

We have had the Men on the Move Conference annually since 1990, but this is the first time it will be held in April. We changed the date to avoid significant winter weather. You may recall that last year, we had to move the conference to near Tucson because of our intense amount of snow. Whether we have that much snow or not, moving the conference to April will work better with our facilities. Evangelist Pete Rice will join his brother Bill Rice III and Troy Carlson to preach at the conference. We hope many friends from around the region will join us April 26-27.



Last year's Men on the Move Conference

Evangelists associated with West Branch will be preaching in Arizona this spring. Wil Rice IV will be in Tucson in March. Chris Miller is in Tucson and Phoenix now. Troy Carlson will be in Phoenix Easter Sunday, and Glenn Stevenson will be in the West starting in May. Please check our Local Church Meetings web page to see the full schedule.

Special Opportunity in Tennessee

For about a decade, the Bill Rice Bible College has been training young people to serve the Lord. Over the course of time, a number of western teens have gone to train in Tennessee. Most of these young people were first campers or summer staff volunteers at West Branch. We have made it a priority to promote the college because we believe so strongly that young people should be trained to serve the Lord.

This spring we have an even stronger connection to this aspect of the Ranch ministry. Evangelist Troy Carlson is spending the spring semester teaching Bible and ministry classes in Tennessee. Responsibilities also include preaching a number of college chapel services, traveling to preach in several local churches, representing the college with a singing group, holding two revival meetings, and preaching for two youth outreaches.

The Carlsons will return to Arizona in April in time for the men's conference and the senior trip retreats. Additional Ranch staff is now in Arizona to assist our staff with facilities and projects throughout the winter. Please pray for effectiveness and progress at both locations.



Some BRBC students served on West Branch summer staff last year