

Introducing
THE PRAXIS RETREAT AND LEARNING CENTER
in Elwood, Texas



Entry to the Retreat
Center

Contemplative Retreats

For centuries women and men following a spiritual path have gone apart from their normal routines to prayerfully engage in the practice of contemplative retreat. In our century, perhaps now more than any other, when chaos increases, distractions abound, and the demands of daily life are increasingly intense, those who are drawn to a sapiential path need to establish regular patterns of retreat and renewal in order that the inner dimensions of spirit may flourish. It is for these reasons that a space has been set aside for retreat in Northeast Texas.

Location

Located near the Red River, in Fannin County, a part of northeast Texas, the Praxis Retreat and Learning Center has, for many decades, been a haven for souls seeking rest and retreat. Its land is part of an 87 acre parcel of countryside nestled in the Red River Valley just a mile from her banks. This bio-region is in the cross-timber prairies of northeast Texas where the woodlands of the East mingle with the prairies of the mid-west.

These are restful and pastoral acres nestled in a wooded countryside among working farms and ranches off a gravel road. Shaded woods, open meadows and native prairie lands, a small lake, and a creek grace the lands. In addition, nature trails run throughout the property leading to quiet, wooded spaces, camp sites, grassy open meadows, old orchards and a pioneer gravesite more than a century old.



The Red River



Retreat House

The Retreat Center itself is a collection of 5 buildings which are part of a larger community of homes and residences called the Elwood Forest Cooperative—a small village of people working and living together in the upper northwest corner of the property. The rest of property is open fields and woodlands under wildlife management which lets them remain free as a natural habitat for the flora and fauna of the region and also available for walking and exploration for the community of residents and retreatants.

Description

Established three decades ago as a Retreat Center, it has been a place of reprieve for many individuals and groups who have used it for quiet rest and reflection. It continues this ecumenical ministry which is open for wisdom seekers and contemplatives from many different religious traditions. Now owned by the Oriental Orthodox Order of the West, and a part of a larger Contemplative Wisdom community, the center welcomes folk seeking its quietude in many ways.



Lands and Lake

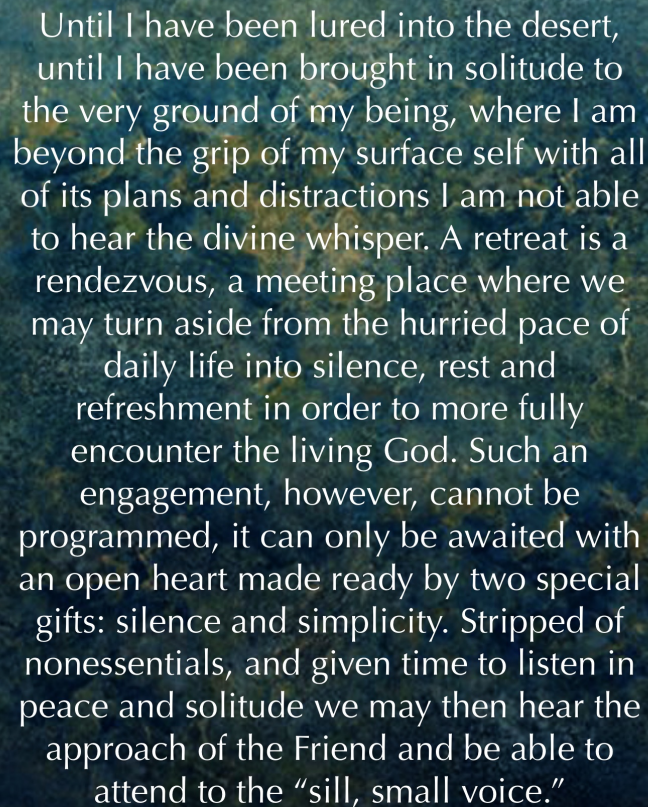


The Chapel

In addition to the of extensive acreage of the property extending beyond its borders, the Retreat Center offers comfortable multi-purpose structures with many amenities for work, study, and prayer: a chapel in the woods, a two story retreat facility with multiple bedrooms, living and dining spaces, a separate classroom for study, a large dining hall and workshop space, and a smaller retreat house for couples. A hermitage in the woods, belonging to a member of the community, is available. Each of these is comfortably appointed and offers places of rest, relaxation and quiet.

Retreat Types

The Praxis Retreat and Learning Center offers many kinds and types of retreats making itself available depending on the needs of its retreatants. Welcoming those who are seeking a place for quiet and silence, prayerful study and meditation, spiritual direction, and spiritual instruction, the center can accommodate individuals, groups, and communities in the following ways:



Until I have been lured into the desert,
until I have been brought in solitude to
the very ground of my being, where I am
beyond the grip of my surface self with all
of its plans and distractions I am not able
to hear the divine whisper. A retreat is a
rendezvous, a meeting place where we
may turn aside from the hurried pace of
daily life into silence, rest and
refreshment in order to more fully
encounter the living God. Such an
engagement, however, cannot be
programmed, it can only be awaited with
an open heart made ready by two special
gifts: silence and simplicity. Stripped of
nonessentials, and given time to listen in
peace and solitude we may then hear the
approach of the Friend and be able to
attend to the "sill, small voice."

—Douglas Steere

- **Directed Silent Retreats:** Individuals and groups are given an opportunity to engage in directed silent retreats where the main focus is to remain present to the silence of the countryside. Retreat masters are available for direction, counsel and special guidance as well as for instruction. A regular daily schedule of quiet worship is provided as necessary, plus meditations and reflective instructions.
- **Individual, Independent Retreats and Sabbaticals.** Those who are seeking to be alone on quiet retreat with or without a personal project are welcome for a day or an extended period of time. A spiritual director or counselor is available on an as-needed basis for those who request it. Otherwise accommodations of various kinds are available to allow each individual personal time and freedom for their work, study and prayer. Arrangements for this time are privately made with the Center's staff.

- **Teaching, Instructed Workshops and Retreats:** The Center offers periodic retreats for spiritual instruction and teaching as well as workshops of many kinds and types having to do with sapiential instruction, contemplative learning, as well as spiritual and artistic practices. Different retreat masters and teachers are available to offer these unique opportunities and experiences designed for contemplatives and wisdom seekers.
- **Hosting Independent Workshops, Seminars and Retreats:** The Center is willing to host such gatherings for churches, religious communities, charitable institutions, non—profit business, artist, yoga instructors, and other civic groups. The facilities are available and arrangements can be made to fit the unique needs of each for their accommodations, meals, and logistics.

Amenities

Hiking nature trails, swimming and fishing, bird and wild-life watching, plant, wild-flower investigating and harvesting, as well as historical and geological tours are available along with the exploration of local crafts and shopping opportunities in nearby towns and villages.

Our current fees are:

- Lodging: \$50-75 per night per person depending on location.
- Meals: \$30 a daily meal plan per person upon request.
- Spiritual Direction: \$50 an hour or donation
- For group use and fees please contact us.

Contact Information:

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