



Welcome to Kerith Retreat! We want to make sure you have a wonderful stay. Here's everything you need to know to check in. Feel free to call or text one of us if you have questions or needs:

Claire Andrews: Cell 803-422-1929, Email claire@kerithretreat.org

Chris Andrews: Cell 803-730-7467, Email chris@kerithretreat.org

Landline phone in main house: 828-246-9805

Emergencies: Dial 911

WHO WE ARE

The name “Kerith” *and the items in your welcome basket* come from 1 Kings 17:5-6, where God provided the prophet Elijah with a safe place of extended rest from his exhaustion at Brook Kerith. Ravens provided for his needs with bread, meat, and water.

Established in 2021 and receiving our first guests in July 2022, the mission of Kerith Retreat is to provide a place of peace so our guests — YOU — may rest their bodies, minds, and souls by spending unhurried time alone with God. Our apartment and grounds are open to you during your stay — it was our calling to make this a retreat *house* and not a “center”, so that our focus would be on serving one guest rather than a large group. Prayer, reading, casual strolls, naps, and just taking in God’s creation are all encouraged here. ***By optional appointment, we offer spiritual direction sessions with Claire, informal marriage enrichment with Chris & Claire, and pastoral conversations, communion, and/or confession with Chris.*** We will try to accommodate your desired time, depending on our availability.

Claire is an experienced spiritual director (trained in the Selah 2-year cohort program) and discipleship director serving in the local church 2001-2020. Chris is an ordained priest in the Anglican Church in North America (M.Div., Asbury Seminary). Chris is also a full-time software developer, working remotely from the house. We have been married since 1987 and have 2 adult children. For more detail, see our bios on kerithretreat.org and claireandrews.org.

Our golden retriever Sam lives in the house with us and would love to be your friend for life. We ask that you close the gates upon entering and leaving, as well as being watchful for Sam’s presence when you back up. He is primarily inside the main house with us.

BRIEF HISTORY OF “SILO HOUSE”

The original house was a barn with stone walls, built along with the silo in the 1930s. The barn was converted into a house, adding the front den, in the 1960s. At that time, the “cement pond” which you see across the creek and belonging to the neighbors, along with varying pipes you see along the creek, were part of an irrigation system for a community golf course

down below the property. In the 1990s, the kitchen, master suite, and detached garage were added by the previous owner, who planted a vineyard and operated a winery called Silohouse for a few years. We bought the house in 2021 with the purpose of creating Kerith. We love to think of all the chapters which this property has seen!

CHECK-IN AND OUT

You're free to check-in with Claire or Chris anytime after 3 PM.

Please check-out by Noon so we'll have enough time to clean the apartment before the next guest.

Text or call us if you have a special request to adjust these times up to an hour — we can't promise we'll be able to accommodate the request, but communicating with as much lead time as possible may help.

The items in your welcome basket are yours to eat or take home, but please leave the basket itself. You are also welcome to keep one book from the bookshelf library as our gift to you.

Check-out cleanup:

- ☐ Please hang your towels separately on the various racks in the bathroom.
- ☐ Strip the sheets off of whichever beds you used and pile on the bench in the bedroom. There is no need to make the beds.
- ☐ Place all dirty kitchen items in the dishwasher and start it up on the normal setting with a Cascade pod.
- ☐ Take any food items you brought with you. We cannot leave them for the next guest.
- ☐ Check out. Most have pre-paid their balance automatically through our online reservation service. Please text one of us at 803-422-1929 (Claire) or 803-730-7467 (Chris) that you have departed.
- ☐ Let us know which book, if any, you are taking home so we can reorder.

GPS ADDRESS

**950 Walker Rd (the apartment itself is officially 954 Walker Rd)
Waynesville, NC 28786**

Most guests will drive I-40 to the area, taking Exit 27 (Smoky Mountain Expressway to Waynesville). Walker Rd is about a 15 minute drive on the Expressway, just past mile marker 95. Kerith Retreat is exactly 1 mile up Walker Road. At about a mile, look through the trees on the right for a tan house with a red metal roof and the only silo in the neighborhood! Turn into the driveway just past the mailbox and our small street light.

PARKING

The driveway runs through a fairly low-clearance carport. **If your vehicle is over 8 feet tall, park in the space to the left just before the carport.** Otherwise, pull through into the gravel parking area and park near the exterior staircase on the right of the detached garage.

Note: You are in bear country. We have not seen them, but our next door neighbors have. Please **lock** your vehicle and *do not leave any food inside your vehicle*. Also, lock both apartment doors at night.

LOCK

To unlock the apartment door, the code for the electronic lock was provided to you by text or email. Firmly press the YALE button (dead center), release and wait 1-2 seconds for the keypad to display. If it doesn't display, try again. Enter your passcode followed by the checkmark.

To lock from the inside, simply turn the deadbolt knob to the right.

To lock from the outside when leaving, firmly press the YALE button, release and wait 1-2 seconds — when the keypad is displayed, the door has locked. We recommend testing the door to make sure it actually locked; if not, repeat the process.

HOUSE RULES

- No pets allowed.
- No smoking inside the apartment.
- No parties or events.
- Please refrain from making noise outside past 10 PM.

WIFI AND CELL SERVICE

Network Name: **KerithRetreatGuest**

Password: **(See this page in the printed Welcome Book in your welcome basket)**

To connect by Bluetooth to the JBL speaker (behind the sofa): "JBL Charge 3"

Our Spectrum cable internet speed is excellent - approximately 400 mbps. Although we don't offer a TV and discourage a lot of screen time during your retreat, if you have a cable or streaming subscription, you should be able to watch through your laptop or cellphone app with no buffering.

Our cellphone signal, however, is poor. Verizon / Spectrum has the best signal, and it is only about 1 bar. For calls, we strongly recommend using Zoom, Skype, or another WiFi-based meeting app, or activating WiFi Calling on your phone (and requesting that anyone you call do the same). If you have an important call that cannot use WiFi, contact Chris or Claire to arrange use of our landline phone, or drive into Waynesville for better cell receptivity.

THERMOSTAT

The thermostat for the mini-split HVAC system is a **white remote control** that we leave on the table behind the sofa. Feel free to adjust it to be comfortable: point the remote toward the white unit on the upper creekside wall of the apartment and press either Too Warm or Too Cool to adjust the temperature (note: you must hear a beep from the main unit for the change to be activated). Please don't turn it below 65 degrees for cooling or above 75 for heating.

USE OF THE GROUNDS & CREEK

You are welcome to walk around and sit anywhere on the grounds. Please wear walking or hiking shoes. You may encounter some of God's creatures – usually just birds and chipmunks, but we do come across yellow jackets and a couple snakes each year, so just keep an eye on where you're walking. To access Winchester Creek (shared property) – daytime only – walk to the bottom of the yard, through the fence gate, and turn left. Walk down the wooded trail, taking extra care where it gets steep for a few yards, to the flat area just above the creek. We recommend not walking beyond that area to the ground right on the creek – yellow jackets have been found there. You can take your camp chairs and sit for awhile. Claire can provide info on walking the neighborhood.

THE SILO

The silo is no longer used for storing grain, as it was when the property was a farm. We keep it locked for safety because it currently houses a colony of (good) bats in the spring and summer, who fly out of the silo cap at sunset to dine on mosquitos and bugs (a benefit to your time on the deck). There's not much to see inside, but it remains as a piece of Walker Road history.

LOCATIONS OF COMMON ITEMS

The pantry closet is near the kitchenette — several items mentioned below, as well as replacement light bulbs and batteries, are stored there. The **washer and dryer** are located in this area as well, and are available for your use (instructions are on top of each unit; detergent is above the washer).

- The **fire extinguisher** is on the floor next to the refrigerator - instructions are simple and on the extinguisher itself.
- **Plates, bowls and cups** are on the shelves above the appliances.
- **Utensils** are in the upper drawers on both sides of the dishwasher.
- **Pots and pans** are in the lower cupboard to the left of the dishwasher.
- **Rubbermaid storage & serving containers** are in the lower cupboard to the left of the sink.
- **Trash bags and cleaning supplies** are in the pantry closet.
- Please deposit aluminum cans, glass bottles, cardboard, paper, and #1 plastic trash in the open **recycling bin** with the blue trash bag next to the refrigerator.
- Open shelf space below the counter to the left of the dishwasher and under the coffee bar is available for your nonperishable food items.
- **Camp chairs** are in the guest closet for use anywhere on the property (or take on day trips)

Let us know if anything is running low and you want us to restock.

COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGES

Kerith Retreat offers free coffee, hot cocoa, and tea with sugar, stevia, honey and creamers. Help yourself! The drip coffeemaker, electric kettle (for rapidly boiling water), and coffee grinder are sitting on the upper shelf next to the refrigerator. Our tap water is from our mountain well and is pre-filtered, but a Brita filtered water pitcher is in the refrigerator - refill as needed.

Coffeemaker filters and whole-bean Mexican Chiapas coffee from our local roaster Panacea are on the lower shelf. A variety tray of tea bags are on the upper shelf.

To use the coffeemaker:

1. Grind your coffee: scoop 1 tablespoon of beans into the grinder for each 5 ounces of water (so, if you are going to fill the coffee maker — 25 oz, enough for 2 tall mugs — measure 5 tablespoons).
2. Close the top of the grinder and hold down the button for 15 seconds.
3. Open the top of the coffeemaker, insert a filter, and pour / scoop the ground coffee into the filter.
4. Fill the coffee carafe from the tap with cold water and pour into the back of the coffeemaker.
5. Close the top, return the carafe to the coffeemaker and press the power button.
6. You may pull the carafe out while it is brewing to pour a cup, then return it to finish brewing.

To use the electric kettle:

Fill the kettle with cold water to the amount desired, place it back on the base, and press the button on the top of the kettle to start. It will turn itself off when the water boils.

APPLIANCES

Instruction booklets for these appliances are in the accordion folder on the top of the refrigerator:

- **Microwave** (dish cover is stored inside the microwave)
- **Toaster Oven / Air Fryer** (note: bakes hot - slightly *above* set temp)
- **Dishwasher** (Cascade pods under the sink)
- **Double Inductive Cooktop** (stored in pantry – works just like a stovetop with similar power, but must use with our inductive-ready pots & pans in the cupboard)

NOTE: We know this is a pain, but to avoid throwing a circuit breaker, please do not plug more than one of the Microwave, Toaster Oven, and Cooktop into the same wall plate, and do not operate more than 2 of these 3 appliances at the same time.

The plug used by the Toaster Oven on the kitchen counter is difficult to insert, but we promise it's not blocked - if you switch it with the Cooktop, just keep working the plug to get it in there. The plug used by the Microwave is much easier to insert.

Please use the trivets on the kitchen counter for hot dishes and the coasters on the bedside tables and den table for cups & mugs.

BATHROOM ITEMS

Please feel free to use the provided body wash, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion. Travel size toiletries are available below the sink if you forgot anything.

NIGHT LIGHTS

We have night lights installed to help you navigate in the dark and to provide dim, warm light for sleeping. If you prefer it pitch black to sleep, you may turn out all the night lights EXCEPT the one by the main door light switches, which is screwed to the wall and only turns on if motion is detected.

IMPORTANT: DRIVING TO WAYNESVILLE (OR ASHEVILLE)

To drive to the closest town, Waynesville, or the closest city, Asheville, turn left out of the driveway. We recommend using a lower gear so you won't have to pump your breaks as much. **When you reach the Smoky Mountain Expressway, do NOT turn left. Instead, be patient with the traffic until you can turn right and immediately move into the left lane. In 1/4 mile, take the U-Turn** (if you can't make it into the left lane quickly enough, it's ok - there will be another U-Turn within a mile). Again, be patient as you wait to complete the U-Turn, using the wide shoulder to wait, if necessary. Watch out for traffic merging from the rest area.

There are 2 primary Waynesville exits: 98 (Walmart, Ingles, closest gas) and 102 (Publix, downtown, most restaurants). Your GPS app may direct you to use the Hazelwood exit between these two for some restaurants and sites – that's fine, let GPS guide your way.

OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS - So Many Great Choices!

Breakfast:

Joey's Pancake House: legendary in Maggie Valley - a bit of a drive & wait, but worth it
Beach Mountain Diner: excellent all-around breakfast, much closer to Kerith than Joey's

Lunch & Coffee:

Patio Bistro: great lunch sandwiches, soups and salads
Church Street Depot: fantastic gourmet burgers
Panacea Coffee: wonderful creekside atmosphere for lunch, roasts their own coffees
Orchard Coffee: smaller shop but nationally renowned for their espresso drinks

Casual Dinner:

Haywood Smokehouse: best BBQ in Western NC (only open Wed-Sun)
Blue Rooster: excellent mid-priced Southern classics (only open Mon-Fri)
Suwana or Watami: both offer excellent Chinese & sushi selections, Suwana also has Thai
Bogarts: long-time local favorite for steak
Maggie's Galley: best seafood in Waynesville
Bocelli's: we love their marinara - fantastic Italian cuisine
Paps & Beer: excellent Mexican, loved by locals

BrewPubs:

Frog Level Brewery: emphasis on excellent beers, creekside dining and live music
Boojum: a little nicer atmosphere with emphasis on elevated pub cuisine, beer is also great!

Upscale Dinner (reservations highly recommended at each):

Singletree Heritage Kitchen: our fav fancy place - "handcrafted food that is regionally focused"
Sweet Onion: wonderful New Southern cuisine
The Chef's Table: we've only been once, but our friends love it! - reservations required

Sweets:

Jack the Dipper: decadent ice cream served in freshly made, warm waffle cones
Daylight Donuts: all the goodness, freshly baked

FAVORITE THINGS TO DO WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF KERITH

1. Walk **downtown Waynesville**, checking out the great shops: Mast General Store, Sassafras Toy & Book Store, Wall Street Used Books, various mountain-themed gift & art shops.
2. Walk or run the 2.5 mile easy path around **Lake Junaluska**. A public pool, canoes, kayaks, and putt-putt are available for a fee in the summer. Tennis, cornhole, and covered basketball courts are available as well. There is also a chapel, a labyrinth, and several meditation gardens on the grounds.
3. Drive on the **Blue Ridge Parkway** (right on Expressway, about 1 mile to entrance) to Waterrock Knob and hike the light-moderate trail, picnic, or just admire the view at sunset.
4. Browse the Historic **Haywood Farmers Market** on Saturday morning between 9:00-Noon.
5. From Aug 1 through Christmas, visit the **Barber Orchard farm store** (a mile from Kerith) for delicious local apples, canned jams, cider, and apple-based baked treats.

GROCERY STORES & GAS

The grocery stores we use in Waynesville are **Walmart** (10 minutes away, right off Smoky Mountain Expressway exit 98, about a half mile on the left), **Ingles** (also exit 98, drive past the Walmart turn, take a left at the stop light, then about a mile on the left), and **Publix** (the nicest, but 13 minutes away, right off exit 102, immediate right).

There are several gas stations near the Walmart and Ingles - take exit 98.

NOTES ON FURNISHINGS AND CLEANING

All of the furnishings, including mattresses and appliances, are new as of 2022, thanks to the gifts of our generous donors. We were able to research and choose items for quality and comfort. Our mattresses and pillows are fully wrapped to prevent any issues with bedbugs, and the beds have an additional waterproof cooling mattress cover. For every guest, we wash and sanitize all sheets, towels, bed coverings, surfaces, and kitchen items.

A number of items were repurposed or handcrafted:

- The king bed's cedar headboard and window valence were both repurposed by Bill Wilson from one of the original doors to the pantry closet. In fact, Bill also built the bed frame and did most of the woodwork for the remodel.
- Bill's wife Linda (Claire's sister) was our interior design consultant. She is also the artist of the beautiful mountain painting on the bedroom wall.
- The dining table was handcrafted by Jalen Bell, a friend of our son Wesley.
- The cedar bedside tables, bench, and bookshelf were handcrafted by Jack Lawton, a friend of Bill & Linda.
- The apartment remodel was designed by architect and Kerith board member Dave Davis.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or text us.

Rest and enjoy God's presence!

Chris & Claire