



Meet our New Executive Director!

A new era is born at our 121-year old retreat center.

Phoebe Needles Center has a very rich and long history with many successes upon which to build a strong and vibrant future. Its mission is to serve people of all ages throughout southwestern Virginia by offering facilities, and a variety of educational, spiritual, and renewal programs designed to nurture people in their spiritual formation.

For the past several decades, Phoebe Needles Center, Inc. (PNCI) has been best known for its wonderful and engaging 6-week summer camp programs (day and residential camps for youth), its monthly Center for Lifelong Learning programs for seniors, and for its spiritual retreats.

In May of this year, PNCI hired Inge Terrill to be its new Executive Director to replace Reverend John Heck who retired after serving with the nonprofit for 25 years leaving behind a wonderful legacy upon which to build a new era. Inge comes to Phoebe Needles with a background in Biology and Environmental Sciences as well as Education.

Ms. Terrill's vision for the next 5-10 years is for PNCI to stay strongly grounded in its mission and current offerings while growing as an organization to help meet the current needs of communities in the region and expand its program offerings for people of all ages.

She believes that to understand more fully what the urgent needs are for communities in our region and how PNCI can help, is to meet with local groups, nonprofit organizations, school officials, and individuals, as well as offer a series of Open House events to start these important conversations.

“Because of lingering pressures from the pandemic, racial tensions, inequality, economic

instability, and an overall disconnect from nature, we will look closely at how we can help youth and adults better navigate our ever-changing world to help set them up for successes in life,” says Ms. Terrill.

She feels some of the key areas that need addressing are Diversity and Inclusion, Pandemic Related Learning Losses, Social Emotional Learning, Trauma Awareness, Mental Wellness, and Nature Connections. She believes pressures such as these are felt by everyone: adults and youth alike.

“We will partner with organizations to cooperatively develop programs for families, individuals, and children to help them thrive in these challenging times,” says Ms. Terrill. “Three wonderful existing partnerships are with the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Saint Peter’s-in-the-Mountains Episcopal Church in Callaway, and with the American Camp Association.”

She believes that for PNCI to be successful with its mission, it needs to establish new income streams to help expand its programs and outreach and to help maintain its lovely 78 acre retreat center.

Ms. Terrill says, “We will establish PNCI as an event and rental venue for weddings, parties, reunions, and grow its retreat offerings. In addition, we will create several annual fundraising events including family friendly festivals to help raise awareness about our mission and help fund our new programs.”

“Our first such annual fundraising festival will be on Sunday, October 1st at Phoebe Needles Center which will offer music, storytelling, food, and family fun activities. This event will also honor Rev. John Heck for his 25 years of service!”

Ms. Terrill may be new to PNCI, but she is not a newcomer to Franklin County. She has lived in Endicott, just outside of Ferrum, since 2002. Her background is eclectic and ranges from housing and stripping tobacco in Kentucky while in high school; doing her Master Thesis research on Andros Island in the Bahamas; home schooling her two daughters for eight years; working at a Health Food Store in Floyd; and being a Wellness Coach. Her last position was at Apple Ridge Farm, a summer camp for children where she coordinated programs and managed their 96-acre facility for 11 years.

Inge has a B.A. in Biology from Northern Kentucky University and a Masters in Environmental Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Since 2002, Inge has been in the field of education working with people of all ages at Blue Mountain School, Apple Ridge Farm, and at Ferrum College. She is very community minded and has volunteered over the years with the Floyd Homeschoolers Cooperative, Floyd 4H Horse Club, and the regional team of the Virginia

Association for Environmental Education called BREE (Blue Ridge Environmental Educators) that she helped establish and Chair for 3 years.

Ms. Terrill is a Certified Wellness Coach and has been studying a form of psychotherapy called Focusing since 2016. She is currently completing her Certification as a Focusing Professional with The International Focusing Institute (TIFI). She is looking forward to offering Focusing and Wellness workshops and retreats at PNCI.

She whole heartedly believes that “Diversity is the Spice of Life” whether it relates to having a variety of foods in one’s diet to promote a strong healthy body and mind; to connecting with people from diverse socio economic, race and faith backgrounds help create a strong and healthy community.

Her passions lie with connecting people of all ages to themselves and to nature in deep and meaningful ways. She lights up when people tap into that Sense of Awe while experiencing nature’s grandeur and when people have Aha Moments and really see and understand something for the first time.

The PNCI Board is eager to put her talents to purpose at Phoebe Needles and launch a new era of supporting our beloved community.

Keep your eyes and ears open for wonderful new things to come here at Phoebe Needles!

To get involved, make a donation, or learn more, please contact PNCI at 540.483.1518, pncenter@gmail.com, or phoebeneedles.org.