

An update on life as we try to Live Lagom ("just the right amount")
Spring 2012



Landing into a Lagom Spring



Forward to a Friend



When we graduate from high school, some of us know immediately where we're headed. For others, it's harder. **Lagom Landing helps young adults, ages 18-23, "land" into their calling.**

We are, in essence, a school. We teach hands-on trades, spiritual development, and entrepreneurship. Over the course of a school year, working with your hands and living in community, you'll learn the basics of residential construction and other hands-on trades. Discover focus in your life, joy in helping others, and skills that will differentiate you from your peers . . . no matter what you go on to "do" in life.

A word from Rock: Inspiration in a time of waiting . . .

In Celtic spirituality, boundaries are understood as sacred places. The boundary between night and day (dawn and sunset), sea and shore, winter and spring, are filled with a sense of mystery and change. Looking back at shore we see life as we have understood and experienced it, a safe haven perhaps. Looking out to sea, the wild unknown swirls with hopes and fears, adventure and potential disaster.

Laurel and I find ourselves standing in such a place as we transition into Lagom Landing. Entering the unknown waters of getting the first year off the ground, I want to move directly past chaos to *all systems go!* I feel a little like the dude in *Field of Dreams* who built the baseball diamond in the middle of the cornfield in Iowa--after receiving the strange message, "if you build it, they will come." We are building it, Lord, when are they coming? We want these ducks lined up . . . NOW!

Yet after reading about the sacred space of boundaries and horizons in Margaret Silf's book *Sacred Spaces: Stations on a Celtic Way*, I am challenged to look at this time in a new way:

"Crossing a new breaker line, however it presents itself in our lives, demands an act of courage and faith. It will always take us through turbulence to a new depth of our being. In that new depth we will eventually find ourselves out of our depth and will have to trust in powers beyond our own. We will be challenged to trust that the power which holds us means well with us and that it sustains the totality of creation as well as our own selves. The chaos boundaries we must cross, to proceed on our soul's journey make it a costly undertaking, yet the destination is beyond price, a homecoming to the original wholeness from which our limited autonomous selves first sprang."

In this amazing early spring (we had 16 days over 60 in March, compared to 3 in a normal year), I've been back out on the bicycle seeing the earth come alive with joy and confusion. I seek to enter into the wonder and discomfort of Lagom Landing's gestation period, to embrace the chaos and not knowing of pregnancy, and allow new seeds of trust to spring forth.

We are a culture that seeks certainty and comfort. "Managing risk" is the new buzzword. As individuals, we are deeply influenced by our society's illness. So I ask you what sacred chaos has presented itself in your life? What potential holy ground are you wishing to just get past when it may be filled with opportunity for deeper faith and learning? Who knows what might happen if we are open to see that creation is coming alive? Oh yeah!
In springtime chaos,
Rock



Activity



Barn

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We want to make sure you know how your tax-deductible funds are being used.

Any donations made to Lagom Landing are used for program expenses specifically. We will not begin formal operations until we have at least six students signed up to the program.

Therefore, we are retaining all funds (excepting the occasional stamp or office supply incidentals) in an account until full operations begin. Our Board has set up a Lease Agreement with Laurel and Rock, whereby Lagom Landing rents the property for \$1/year. All improvements (including the barn renovation) are paid for by Laurel and Rock.

As we recruit, we are finding that the primary challenge hindering many students' participation is the challenge of paying tuition coupled with a year not working.

We are grateful for a \$7,500 grant from the Presbyterian Partnership Group of the PC(USA) Synod of the Northeast. With this grant, we are able to discount student tuition for 2012-2013 by \$2,500 a student, thus giving incentive to our "pilot year students"!

Please consider a gift to the Lagom Landing general fund or to the scholarship fund.

You can give through PayPal on our website:

www.lagomlanding.org. We will stay in touch with you and let you know who benefits from your generosity!

Our friend Chelsea (above) has been a great help planting fruit and nut trees and other edibles, sheet composting a large area of the yard, and being Bennie (our dog's) buddy!

We had an Open House in March, have a few more prospective student visits set up, and have been busy getting word out to community groups and to as many student groups as we are able to meet with! We have two excellent interns from SUNY Geneseo who are helping us re-vamp our website and make a video so we can share our purpose more directly with potential students. **As always, if you can connect us to groups of 18-23 year olds, please be in touch!**

An exciting development is that the renovation of the barn is nearly complete! What was once a wet, muddy, decaying mess is now well drained and dry, with light shining in through newly-installed windows. We put in drainage, leveled and poured a new floor, tore off and replaced metal siding and doors with windows and painted wood siding. Now Rock, Jake, Sean, Jamie, and others have been installing and taping drywall for a large multifunctional classroom.

We are excited to be able to share this space as a learning laboratory for future builders!



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