



USCGA Report OCT 2024

Building Christian military leaders, families, fellowships...*for a lifetime*

Who are the newbies?

We are Pat (Captain, USCG, Ret.) and Jill Ropp, and are originally from Marysville, MI. We've been married for 33 years and have four adult children, three are married. Three of them are CGA grads, one in 2020, two in 2023. We have one grandchild and two more on their way (early November and February 2025). I am a 1991 USCGA graduate with a Naval Architecture/Marine Engineering degree. After my first shipboard engineering tour on a WMEC 270, I went into Marine Safety, also called – Prevention, where I served for the next 23 years as a commercial vessel compliance inspector and casualty investigator, with tours in the Great Lakes, Pacific Northwest, Gulf Coast, and Alaska. I retired as the Commanding Officer of MSU Portland. Jill and I were both involved in OCF throughout my Academy years and continued to serve and witness through words and actions as we served in the maritime community. In 2015 we were on the team that acquired USCGA OCF's hosting home, Shepherd's Fold, for the CGA Cadet ministry.



When the need arose at Shepherd's Fold, God clearly called us into this ministry. At the time, I was working

as a project manager at Koops, an automation company that has deep Christian roots and values, the leadership team and employees provided tons of support for our new mission. We answered God with an enthusiastic, "YES!" We left the job, house, acreage, family, and community in Grand Haven, Michigan (the original Coast Guard City, USA) to travel back to New London to be stewards of OCF and Shepherd's Fold. Our love for Cadets, the Coast Guard, Jesus, and the wonderful mission brought us here – only by God's grace, mercy, and

direction. We have the honor and privilege to work with the robust voluntary ministry team to disciple and mentor cadets, guiding and giving them tools and resources to grow in their own spiritual journey, preparing them to be messengers of Jesus' Word, both at the Academy and when they go into the fleet.



Cadet Leadership Retreat



Jill and I dove right into the ministry as we discussed with cadets the semester and all the events planned for the year. Prayer, praise, worship, and great fellowship had by all! Including great discussions around the campfire...

Labor Day Retreat



The Protestant Chaplains hosted a wonderful Labor Day retreat at Camp Wightman, less than an hour away from CGA. About 80 cadets enjoyed the fellowship of this body of believers. The worship team

brought great music and was Spirit-led! The Chaplains led insightful sermons with

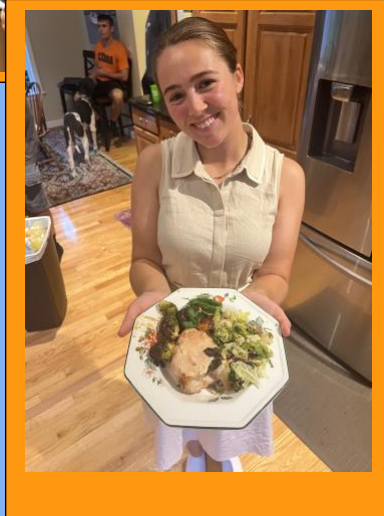
opportunities for small group follow-up. The annual Capture the Flag was held between two islands, one protected by the three upper classes, and one by the Fourth Class... The Fourth Class won! The aroma of burnt marshmallows and smores; beautiful, heart-felt testimonies; and worship with songs and hymns filled the night air.

Community Service at Shepherd's Fold



All cadets have Community Service obligations to meet, Shepherd's Fold provides them a way to fulfill these hours. A great display of working together to make the ministry house cleaner and keep spiders away. A large group also cleared a couple of trails that had become overgrown with ferns and fallen branches/trees. These cadets beautifully demonstrate servanthood, and some great fellowship was had by all!

Second Class served Fourth Class Dinner and shared devotions



A true presentation of servanthood was shown by the 2/C cadets as they served the 4/C cadets a delightfully yummy dinner. Devotions and worship followed, along with time around the bonfire.

Parents/Family Weekend





Almost 90 cadets and their families attended the annual Parents Weekend Dinner before moving into Friday Night Fellowship. The weather was beautiful, so we sat outdoors and fellowshiped with old and new friends. Geddy Miller shared a moving testimony of how Jesus saved him and why he's here today to minister to cadets. The Parents of our Fourth Class were able to see first-hand the wonderful ministry that OCF brings to campus. Many parents came to Shepherd's Fold after Regimental Drill Review on Saturday, and a few came by on Sunday afternoon, too.

Steinway at the Fold



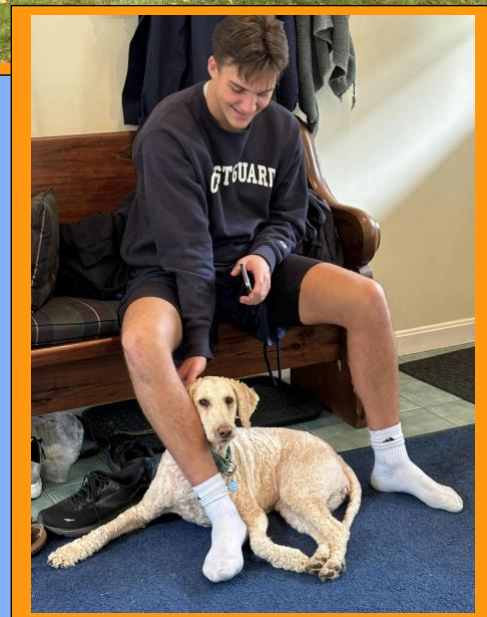
Geddy Miller found a Steinway piano, built in 1911, for the Fold. It has a near-perfect sound board and was recently tuned. The family donated the \$5000 piano once they found out it was for ministry. It absolutely fills the Fold with music!

OCFers Meet at an Airport Pick-Up



Leo Linafelter ('23, formerly Krajewski), Liz Doyle ('22, formerly Cheatham), Connor Ropp ('23) & Kendal Ropp ('23, formerly Woods), Krystle Woods, and Brigit Jogan ('20) met up while traveling – great display of OCFers keeping in contact and supporting each other after graduation – a true OCF for a Lifetime!

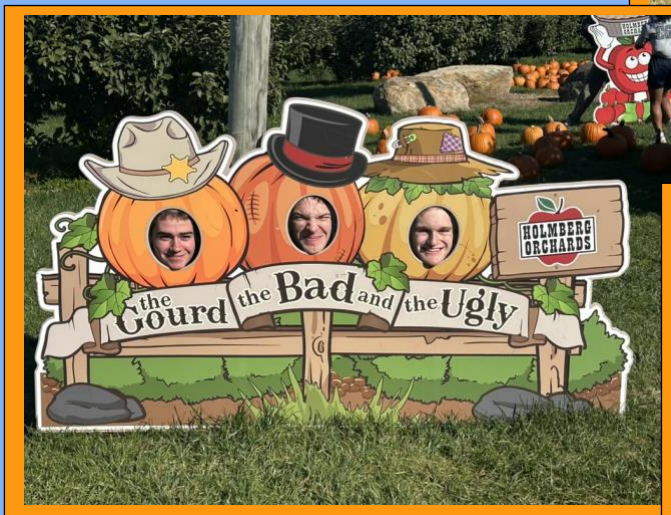
Dogs at the Fold



Cooper and Ellie were given a warm welcome by the cadets. Both are golden-doodles and don't shed – nice when the cadets show up in uniform!

Apple Picking and Pie Baking

Ahhh – What comes with Fall? Apple picking, and of course, pies! Cadets spent the morning picking apples at a local orchard then engulfed Shepherd's Fold with the smell of fresh-baked pies! A chicken dinner was prepared, and all had plenty to eat! Great time of fellowship and worship.



Prayer Requests:

- Pray that Shepherd's Fold continues to be an open, relaxing, ministry house that allows cadets to get away (at least for a little bit) from the pressures of Chase Hall and Academy life.
- Pray that God continues to bless the ministry and allows cadets and mentors to focus on Jesus.
- Pray for the wonderful cadre of class mentors/coordinators as they continue to grow in Christ and mentor cadets in their spiritual journey.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Jill and I, along with all the cadets and mentors who join us at Shepherd's Fold and who are part of the Coast Guard Academy OCF ministry, thank all of you. Thank you to the many Donors, Partners, Family, and Friends who already have supported and who continue to support OCF USCGA and Shepherd's Fold. We are deeply humbled by your prayers and continued generosity of financial support. Your prayers keep us growing spiritually and your financial support allows us to pour God's love and hospitality into cadets' lives over and over. It's only because of your generosity that we can do the things we do for your cadets – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Be a Part of the Ministry!

If you are not already doing so, how can you be a part of OCF and Shepherd's Fold at the Coast Guard Academy?

PRAY

Pray for relationships, healing, fellowship, discipleship, mentoring, spiritual growth, rest, relaxing, homework assignments, studying, etc. ...

Join OCF

As a **regular member** or an **associate member**.

Be a part of the Mission and Vision, and help the organization minister to the entire military community

<https://www.ocfusa.org/join/>

Financial Support

If you feel led to help support this ministry through your finances, please consider donating; your donations allow us to continue to serve your Cadets. Your donations to USCGA OCF are tax deductible.

<https://www.ocfusa.org/uscg/>



Join the FaceBook Page

See what's going on in OCF and Shepherd's Fold. You may get a glimpse of your cadet in action (or resting). Look up **USCGA OCF** in Facebook.com or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/119191298100121/>

Upcoming Events:

17-20 October: Homecoming – Alumni to share at FNF how God's working in their lives

26 October: Men's Meet and Meat – Fellowship, worship and devotions

02 November: Community Service Event

09-10 November: Lady's Retreat at the Fold

16 November: Friends-Giving – Thanksgiving before break

23 November – 01 December: Thanksgiving Break

14 December: Caroling, Fellowship, soups, smores, and devotions

20 Dec – 05 Jan: Christmas Leave

17 – 20 January: Martin Luther King Weekend Retreat at White Sulphur Springs, PA

Days not Available:

Mondays are our Sabbath.

??-?? November: #2 Granddaughter being born in Michigan

??-?? February: #3 Grandchild being born in Louisiana

Weekly Events:

Friday Night Fellowship & Mentoring throughout week

Shepherd's Fold is open on weekends

Chapel Sunday School, Chapel Service

Sunday Evening worship in Chapel

Monday Men & Women Bible Studies

Tuesday Cadet Leadership Meeting

Friday Lunch - Men's Accountability Group (MAG)

Thanks, again, for your support of this wonderful Ministry!