

# Magazine

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HOME

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## Green Acres



Yvonne Miller, co-owner of Green Acres Bed & Breakfast Inn, is at home in her kitchen, where she serves coffee and cake to her guests.

## Place to be on Living Word Academy's Christmas tour

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*New Era Staff Writer*

**W**ith its eight bedrooms, three long tables for dining and lingering aroma of fresh coffee, the Miller farmhouse is ever-ready for guests.

We're not talking just the occasional family member.

This 150-year-old farmhouse, located in the rolling

farmland outside of Mount Joy on Pinkerton Road, accommodates guests from around the world—as many as 29 at one time—every day of the year.

Countians Yvonne and Wayne Miller, who own Green Acres Farm Bed and Breakfast, have welcomed B&B visitors for 38 years, from as far away as Norway, and as close to home as Lancaster. On Sunday, Nov. 29 their spacious B&B, which has been featured in

magazines such as Family Circle and Country Almanac, will open its doors as one of 10 stops on the Gifts of Learning Christmas Tour of Homes sponsored by Living Word Academy.

Wayne was born in the 12-room, three-story farmhouse, and the feel of family is evident. Antiques passed down through the generations, including framed cross-stitch patterns and artwork, are featured throughout the home. In the living

room, family pictures, including those of the Millers' four children and five grandchildren, sit atop a 100-year-old piano. Sketches of grandparents from both Yvonne and Wayne's families hang on one wall.

Yvonne and Wayne decided to share their family homestead with others in 1961. Running a B&B was a dream Yvonne nurtured before moving to the Miller

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## Place to be on Living Word Academy's Christmas tour *continued from previous page*

farmhouse, which seemed tailor-made for such a venture. Since she wanted to work close to home as she raised her children, turning the large home into a business offered her the best of both worlds.

Yvonne also ran an antiques business out of the home for 25 years, and many of her finds remain in the farmhouse. When it comes to furnishings, the home offers a smorgasbord of varied styles—from primitive and country to Victorian.

Although Yvonne is in charge of much of the nuts and bolts of the B&B business, Wayne helps out, especially in the kitchen, which is separated from the living room by two dining rooms.

"He likes it behind the stove," says Yvonne. "I get everything ready, that's our ritual, then he takes over the stove and I seat the guests."

The eat-in kitchen, with a yellow pine breakfast table crafted by Wayne in 1959, is a focal point of the home. "People congregate here," says Yvonne.

At one time, the kitchen was a butchering and canning room, she says. The Millers enlarged the kitchen, adding a small bathroom with shower at one end. The "new kitchen" features several rustic touches.

Barn siding lines one wall, and the microwave is tucked into a summer-screened pie safe that hangs from the exposed rafters. The refrigerator is hidden behind a barn door with hinges, and flour

and sugar bins conceal the dishwasher. Yvonne's long kitchen counter comes from an old store and has dozens of drawers built in.

Two dining areas adjoin the kitchen. Tables sit in the center of each room. In the room closest to the kitchen, a cupboard displays pewter and pottery. A large collection of chocolate pots (which have shorter spouts than teapots) and teapots fills the corner cupboard in the next room.

Yvonne also displays collectibles she acquired during a trip to Russia, where she



Green Acres Bed and Breakfast in Mount Joy is one of 10 stops on Living Word Academy's Gifts of Learning Christmas tour of Homes.



The long table in the front dining room at Green Acres is set and ready for guests. A collection of cream cans hangs overhead.

and Wayne participated in a Bible distribution project spearheaded by Wayne and sponsored by the Worship Center. In the back dining room are 19 matryoshkas or "nesting dolls."

Small signs hang on most of the doors to rooms in the Miller home. For instance, the sign on the French doors leading to the Millers' bedroom, tucked behind the second dining area, says "Farmer's Quarters."

Next to the second dining area is the living room, which has a large fireplace, an antique piano and a pump organ.

A second living room door goes to the front foyer where several old hats dangle from a large hat rack. Artwork covers the walls of the stairway leading to the second-floor guest bedrooms. Yvonne is quick to point out some examples of her cross-stitch, that of her grandmother, and that of her great-

grandmother. One pattern is dated 1840. Like the millers' bedroom, the guest bedrooms have names on their doors: There is the Canopy Room, the Rose Room and the Victorian Room, which boasts a collection of Victorian antiques. Four of the bedrooms share a balcony and porch, which overlooks the sprawling farm. We have several animals, goats, a pony, sheep, a lot of cats," says Yvonne. The Millers' dog, Bear, also acts as a "greeter" of guests, and is especially fond of children, she says.

On the grounds are a playhouse and a small barn, just for children, as well as a sandbox, trampoline and swings.

"It was our dream to share our home with the traveler, and we have kept it a family-oriented amenity," says Yvonne. "It's a definite change of pace."