

*New downtown business is a place for weekend scrapbooking and quilting retreats*  
**Stewartville Heritage House: welcome home**

**By Mark Peterson**  
*STAR Editor*

Lori Miller-Beach loves to relax with good friends. She calls it "creating memories." That's what Miller-Beach had in mind when she and her husband, Van, bought the former Home Sweet Home site from Joe and Jane Himmer several months ago.

The Beaches call their new business the Stewartville Heritage House, a place where visitors can celebrate special events like baby showers or baptisms or attend weekend or all-week quilting or scrapbooking retreats.

"We wanted people to be able to spend time with their good friends and just relax," Miller-Beach said. "It's a place to get together with friends and create memories."

The Heritage House, with pillars supporting a wraparound front porch, invites passersby to inspect its many charms. Built in 1901, the building was used as a family home for many years. The Mayou family lived there from 1929 until about 1953, and the Winkels family called it home from 1953 to 2002.

The Himmers turned the house into Home Sweet Home in 2004, selling baby items, religious items, bathroom soaps, lotions, hats and more from the home's many rooms.

The Heritage House is 2,500 square feet with 10-foot high ceilings. Even so, the feeling inside remains cozy, with a couch and a large chair set up near a flat-screen television downstairs, and three bedrooms that sleep three people each upstairs. The home maintains some of its early 20th century ambience,



*Heritage House hospitality*

**The Stewartville Heritage House, a place where visitors can celebrate special events or attend weekend quilting or scrapbooking retreats, celebrated its grand opening last Friday and Saturday. Lori Miller-Beach, who owns the new business along with her husband, Van, posed last week in two of the home's bedrooms and in the kitchen and living room. "It's a place to get together with friends and create memories," Miller-Beach said.**

*photos by Mark Peterson*



with downstairs pocket doors that still slide like they're brand new and a dining room that accommodates eight to 10 people.

Weekend retreats will begin on Fridays at 9 a.m. and continue through Sundays at 6 p.m. Visitors will be free to order

food from a caterer or bring their own food to prepare in the Heritage House's kitchen, Miller-Beach said.

Laurie Wildeman, who books engagements for the Beaches, has already scheduled events for five weekends,

Miller-Beach said. Wildeman and her group of seven quilters attended the first-ever retreat at the Heritage House during Business Expo weekend.

"They had fun," Miller-Beach said. "They had a really

good time."

The "Heritage House" name connects the new business with the Stewartville Area Historical Society and downtown revitalization, Miller-Beach said.

"If people visiting Stewartville don't have enough room

to stay at their relatives' homes, this would be a nice place for them," she said.

To book a reservation for a celebration or retreat at the Stewartville Heritage House, call 533-8555.