

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

Special points of interest:

- Record winter for number of rental groups
- Record rental group size, 121
- Renovating the oldest small cabin, Fir
- Repaired foundation on Pine Lodge
- Major repair on Chapel floor in progress
- Power Project completed

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Looking Ahead By Tim Huff

We celebrated camp's 70th anniversary last summer. That's right, Camp Bethel has been serving the area for a long time. Through the years camp has had many changes that has built up to who we are today. We are so grateful for the men and women who have served here and those who have supported us over the years. Without them, we wouldn't exist today.

We have seen old buildings torn down and new ones erected. Kitchen remodeled and a deck added. Power and water treatment systems updated. So much has happened to bring us where we are today.

So what lies ahead? The best way to talk about the future is by talking about what's happening right now. We just finished a record setting winter. From Winterama to today, we've only had two open weeks that were not booked! We had the largest rental group of 121 as well. Our summer camps are knocking at the 600 door, and there are churches and groups who would like to use us if our facility could hold their size or type of ministry they

would like to do.

So what does this mean for the future? There's a lot of things that need to happen in order to keep moving forward with the ministry here.

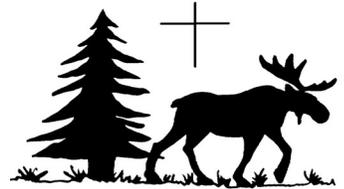
First, we need to renovate the Dining Hall. This would include expanding the eating area, adding more storage and redoing the roof line.

Second, we need to renovate Pine Lodge. This would include a new roof and changing over to a single pitch roof line. Next, we need to remodel the inside so it can be used for both youth and adult ministry and bring the electrical up to date. The question we must answer "is it cheaper to remodel or build new?" The board has already started looking into this question as I write this newsletter.

Third, we need to add more cabins so we can hold the larger groups.

Finally, we would like to add small Family Cabins. These cabins would be used for Family Retreats, Couple Retreats including Senior Citizen's Retreats.

During all this a larger shop



needs to be built.

So when are these changes going to take place and how are we going to pay for them?

Right now we plan on starting a fund raising drive after the first of the year to raise the funds needed to move forward. As the funds come in, the Camp Board will prioritize the projects. The most pressing at this time is the renovation and expansion of the Dining Hall.

Yes, it's an overwhelming adventure, and it can seem impossible. But our God is the Master of the impossible. For what seems impossible to man, is possible with God.

Whoever would of thought we could build new staff housing or put in a costly sewage treatment system? And yet, God provided.

If we just stop and look back

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to where we started and where we're at today, we can see God's hand in everything that has happened. I believe that God is still using Camp Bethel and wants to use us even more than what we're able to do today.

We currently have new groups using us today that can't bring their entire group do to the size of our facility, and other groups wanting to use us if we expand and diversify our facility.

We can either sit still and miss out on what God is doing or step out on faith and allow God to amaze us.

The board has decided it's time to step out and watch God work through His people.

Meanwhile, due to the increase use of camp, we have a little extra money that allows us to move forward on projects without the fund raising drive.

We're currently tearing up the chapel floor due to years of moisture rotting the under structure and rebuilding it from the ground up.

We have also made plans to

pour a new foundation for the Corner Store and move it onto the new foundation this summer.

We also have plans to replace logs on the Dining Hall and the old Caretakers Cabin (known as C.T.), as well as renovate the bathroom in C.T.

We've already started renovation of Fir and plan to finish up this summer, which includes a new foundation, cover porch, chinking, paint and remodeling of the inside.

Finally, we're removing all the fireplaces in the small cabins, and installing propane heat. We're also converting a lower bunk in each cabin so it can be used as a single bed or Queen/King bed. This allows the small cabins to be used for both youth and adults ministries. I know many of you enjoy having the fireplaces in the cabins, but we have had many burns over the years from them, and many of the fireplaces are in bad shape. We also are doing more Ladies Retreats and Family Retreats. Because of this, it's time to say good bye to the fireplac-

es and enjoy the new source of heat. We plan on having the new heating systems installed this spring.

As you can see, God has already started providing for the renovations and we're moving forward with what He has provided.

There will be more information after the first of the year when we start the fund raising drive as to what is needed to move forward with the bigger projects.

If you feel that you don't want to wait and want to start giving now for the future, just make your checks out to Camp Bethel and write Project "C" in the memo section on your check. Remember, all donations are tax deductible and a letter of your contributions will be sent to you at the end of the year.

We are excited about what God is doing and what He's going to do. He has used Camp Bethel to change many lives over the past 70 years and will continue to as long as we seek Him with all our hearts, souls and minds.

"Moving forward can be scary, but standing still can be deadly"

Worship Is More By Jon Allen



Do you ever have times when you feel like you are going through the motions? You know, when it is just another day filled with the same old activities, duties and just flat the mundane. This is a silly question because all of us at some time or other have had

times that are just flat day to day. I must admit that it even happens at camp. Even in the midst of the beauty of the mountain that God created.

As Tim has mentioned, we have been truly blessed by the number of retreats this sea-

son. Along with those retreats comes the in-between the retreat times that include mopping the dining hall and kitchen, cleaning bathrooms, sweeping and mopping cabin floors, changing bedding and so on and so on. It can get a little monotonous. It gets

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monotonous until you consider what it really is.

Colossians 3:17 tells us; “And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” And we also read in 1 Corinthians 10:31; “So whether you eat or drink, **or whatever you do**, do it all for the glory of God.” In other words, everything we do, including the mundane, is to be done to the glory of

God. Everything we do needs to be thought of as worship to the Lord, even the lowliest day to day, humdrum duties.

I have been challenged by this thought during this time of the mundane. Everything we do is worship and that’s what we need to remember. We tend to think of worship as that fifteen minutes of singing during church. The Lord’s idea of worship is everything in our lives, even shoveling

snow so camp can be used to further His kingdom.

So let us understand more fully that everything in our lives is to glorify God and is an act of worship. My prayer is that when y’all come to camp, you will see a clean and inviting environment created through an act of worship in the daily duties we do to the glory of God.



Reaching people for Christ in our part of the world

It’s Spring! By Mary Allen

Even on the mountain, I would definitely say it is spring! Spring is my favorite season of the year. The mountain is waking up ... the birds are singing, the lil critters are scurrying, there is open water on the streams, the days are longer, new life is emerging. I enjoy the “newness” of spring. The baby animals, the breaking through of flowers, even

the spring wardrobe can feel new after a long winter of sweaters and coats.

Spring has even come to the Camp Bethel website. We started with a new email dedicated to registrations in order to streamline the registration process (campbethelregistrar@gmail.com). We were then able to make it possible to

fill-out and submit all registrations on-line. What a wonderful change – for you and for camp as well! And finally, camp is able to receive registrations, donations and payments on-line through pay-pal.

So come on over to mountaintopexperience.org and visit “spring” on our website.

“Spring is a time of new growth. Let each of us have a heart to plant seed so there will be new growth in places there was no growth before”

Fall and Winter Seasons at Camp Bethel By Charmaine Huff

The fall/winter seasons at Camp Bethel brings not only a change in scenery but also a change in daily operations. During the week we work on camp projects and prepare for our weekend retreats. As the weekend arrives, camp is filled once

again with people coming to enjoy a few days away from daily routines and enjoy the beauty of God’s creation here on the mountain. We enjoy hosting a variety of age groups, which include youth, men, women and family retreats.

Our staff also changes from our hired summer staff of high school and college age students to our two families, Jon, Mary and Coby along with Tim, Micaiah and I, working together. We had a few volunteers come up during our busier and



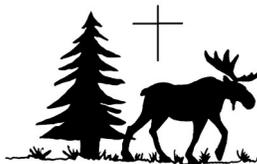
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You can register
for camp online!

The Mountain Top Experience



2015 Summer Camp Dates and Costs

Register Online Today !

Hurry, early registration ends April 30th!

Dates	Camps	Cost - First price is registration before May 1st. Second price is thereafter.
June 1-6	Pre Teen Grades 5-6	\$240/\$260
June 8-13	Young Teen Grades 6-7	\$240/\$260
June 15-20	Jr. High Grades 7-8	\$240/\$260
June 22-27	Mid High Grades 8-9	\$240/\$260
July 6-11	Senior High 1 Grades 9-11	\$240/\$260
July 13-18	Senior High 2 Grades 10-12	\$240/\$260
July 21-25	Junior Boys Grades 3-5	\$210/\$230
July 28-Aug 1	Junior Girls Grades 3-5	\$210/\$230

You can find more information on our website:
www.mountaintopexperience.org

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bigger retreats to help out. Since the end of our summer camps, we have served 74 meals and fed approximately 836 people, so far.

Another change is, of course, a drop in temperatures. This winter we lost the compressor to our walk-in fridge. The blessing of this happening in the coldest days of our winter was the fact that the fridge remained cold, in spite of not running.

As the snow is melting and the sun is shining brighter, bringing warmer temperatures to the mountain, we look forward to the arrival of our summer season, serving the Lord with you through your prayers and financial support.

