

Bethel Camp Times

An update from the hills of southeastern Kentucky...



It's yours- You own it!

Sometimes I walk by our basketball court here at camp during the summer and hear someone trash-talking: "We own this court... You ain't gotta chance a-puttin' no threes over me...." You can bet that I've still got a couple of competitive bones in my body and I'll be fishing the keys out of my pocket, lacing up my shoes a little tighter and doing a few stretches before trying to show some young'uns that maturity can often-times trump confidence.

However, when I hear a young person say, "That's my camp," or hear another person say, "That's our cabin," or listen to a counselor saying, "Those are my girls," there is no part of me that wants to compete with that. In fact, it is part of what makes this place special. Someone before me wrote this, "Bethel Camp is owned by God." This place has always felt like a gift from God and it is our job to take ownership of it - to care for it, treasure it, and grow it into maturity.

God whispered similar words to Adam in the garden when he gave it to him, "Be fruitful and increase, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over



the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Remember this was before sin entered the world, and there was no selfishness in ruling. Owning something meant that you cared for it and took responsibility for it.

There is a lot of thankfulness in my heart that I get to help in this process of taking care of what God has blessed us with, but just because I live on camp property doesn't make me more of an owner than anyone else. This place belongs to all of us. Staff Members, ya'll own this place as you stay in a cabin and reach out to help teach others about Jesus. Donors, ya'll own this place as you invest your kingdom resources to leverage kingdom results here in these hills of Kentucky. Campers, ya'll own this place as you experience God here and he becomes real to you.

God has entrusted us with these 300+ acres and some buildings, grass, trees, hillsides, a creek and now a new dining hall and chapel building. It is up to us to take ownership of it and use it to build His kingdom here. It is interesting how in earthly terms, the fewer heirs to a property, the better off each heir is. In God's kingdom, the more people who claim ownership, the greater the inheritance.

2017 DATES

Winter Banquet
January 28 - 6:00 PM

Young Adult Retreat
February 24-26

Spring Board Meeting
March 11

Spring Youth Retreat
(grades 9-12)
March 31-April 2

Spring Junior Youth
Retreat (grades 5-8)
April 7-9



Big smiles while modeling mother/daughter aprons at the Bethel Camp benefit auction.



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness.

-- Isaiah 9:2





I press toward the
mark for the prize of
the high calling of God
in Christ Jesus.

-- Phil 3:14

Hike-A-Thon news

The 2016 Hike-a-thon raised \$5,896.00 towards completion of the exterior of the new building. Each hiker got sponsors at a "per mile" basis or "just for completing the hike."

Some of the hikers started around 7AM in order to get the entire 15 miles completed. Others started later in the day since they were hiking a shorter distance.

There were a total of 17 hikers who hiked the day of the event and a few that had conflicts on that day and hiked on a different day.

Special thanks to the hikers: Kaitlyn Brooks, Timothy Broyles, Braxton Eiserman, Hannah Griffith, Tina Griffith, Vincent Hall, Stephanie Herald, Karey Lane, Will Lane, Beth Miller, Eldon Miller, Kaileigh Oldham, Phil Swartzentruber, Rosie Swartzentruber, Beverly Turner, Susan Turner, Earl Yoder.

Also special thanks to all the people who sponsored these hikers to make the day a great success!



Winter Banquet

Saturday, January 28, 2017

6:00 pm

-Good Food, Good Friends-

Please RSVP by e-mail or phone

Call to reserve a room if you want

Camp Pastor's Corner—Mark Driskill

* *Note this article is adapted from one that inspired me recently. The original was written by Jay Sampson, it was entitled, "What your Pastor really wants for Christmas." This is my version.*

Your Pastor's Christmas list,*

I just received a question; one of many like it will come to me repeatedly over the next few weeks. It's a question we will all be asked at least once. "What do you want for Christmas?" When I was an even younger child than I am now, it paralyzed me. I had a hard time answering it, because I wanted so many cool things that I had difficulty narrowing my list to a manageable size. I wanted a little of everything. As I've gotten older the question still paralyzes me, but for a different reason.

Now when I'm asked the question, "What do you want for Christmas?" I'm stuck. I stammer around for an answer, not because I want everything, but because I realize that while God hasn't always given me everything I've asked for, He's given me all I really ever wanted. I may not have great material wealth and power, but I am among the wealthiest men on earth. Here are a few things that make me rich:

1. I have a wife who still says, "I love you." ...and for some crazy reason she means it.
2. I have grown children who love God genuinely and love their parents and each other completely.
3. I have more than a job. I have a sense of calling and purpose. I work with great men and women of God and have opportunity every day to make an eternal difference in someone's life.
4. I have good health. The older I get the more precious this simple fact is, that I can still move around and run and work and play. I may move a little slower, but I can still live an active life.
5. I have peace of mind and joy of heart. God assures me of his love and presence and that assurance fills my life with hope. The certainty of eternal life gives me strength and joy for each day.

What do
you really
want for
Christmas?

So you can understand why it may be difficult for me to answer the question, "What do you want for Christmas?" However as I reflect on what I want as a pastor for Christmas I have a short list. I want to share it with you because I believe your pastor probably has some of the same things listed for Christmas. Maybe this list will help you as you consider giving to your pastor this year. Here, for your consideration is a Pastor's Christmas list. I would like the following things for Christmas:

- ♦ I want you (my hearers and readers) to understand the Gospel clearly.
- ♦ I want you to know God intimately.
- ♦ I want you to enjoy life abundantly.
- ♦ I want you to live your faith authentically.
- ♦ I want you to grow in grace completely.
- ♦ I want you to experience God's love personally.
- ♦ I want you to worship and serve God wholly.
- ♦ I want you to feel God's presence daily.
- ♦ I want you to love each other deeply.
- ♦ I want Christ to be exalted in your life beautifully.

Your pastor wants these things for you and for the kingdom of God this year. So maybe it would be great for you to simply let your pastor know this Christmas that you want these things as well and that you are praying and growing toward them. Nothing will bring greater joy to a shepherd's heart than that. God bless you and have a merry Christmas this year.



SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Junior 1A
(grades 4-6)
June 5-9

Junior 2A
(grades 6-8)
June 12-17

High School A
(grades 9-12)
June 19-24

Special Needs
(all ages)
June 26-30

Day Camp
(grades 1-3)
July 3-7

Junior 1B
(grades 4-6)
July 10-14

Junior 2B
(grades 6-8)
July 17-22

High School B
(grades 9-12)
July 24-29

Bethel Camp Times

is published 3-4 times a year. Submissions are welcome.

Phone: (606) 666-4911
grow@bethelcamp.org
www.bethelcamp.org

Board Members:

Sarah Stoltzfus Allen
Sam Augsburger
Darren Fisher
Wendell Kurtz
Eldon Miller
Julianne Rice
Paul Riley
Phil Swartzentruber
Duane Yoder
Earl Yoder

Bethel Mennonite

Camp is owned by God and entrusted to the Bethel Camp Board. Bethel Camp is a Christ centered ministry with an emphasis on Bible study and personal commitment to Christ while maintaining an awareness that God's church is made up of many members and therefore we all need His spirit working through each member to accomplish his purposes.

We seek to be good stewards of God's 300+ beautiful acres of mountains, trees, streams, and springs — using the natural setting to call people into a deeper relationship with God. Bethel Camp is a non-profit organization which operates on donations from churches and caring individuals. All donations and fees go toward the operation and improvement of the camp ministry.

Member



Christian Camp and
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Fall Youth Retreats

Most of the pictures in this newsletter are from one of the fall youth retreats (the exceptions would be the pictures on the front page). God gave us good weather for both of the retreats, and the campers were enthusiastic and energized in their walk with the Lord. We are so grateful for the faithful staff members who give of themselves to help disciple the campers during these retreats. Remember that the first two weekends of April will be retreat weekends again, so be looking for registration forms in the mail (or on facebook).



From the Camp Kitchen...

Apple Fritters

oil for frying
1½ c. flour
1 T. sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
¼ -½ tsp. cinnamon

2/3 c. milk
2 eggs, beaten
1 T. vegetable oil
3 c. apples, peeled, cored, chopped
powdered sugar, for coating



Heat oil in deep-fryer to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Pour in milk, eggs and oil; stir until well blended. Mix in apples until they are evenly distributed. Drop spoonfuls of batter into the hot oil and fry until golden on both sides - about 5 minutes. Fry in small batches so they are not crowded. Remove from hot oil using a slotted spoon; drain briefly on paper towels. Toss in powdered sugar while still warm.



Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List

- ◆ New roofing for 2 camp buildings
- ◆ 2 new cabins (one boys cabin & one girls cabin)
- ◆ 4 drawer metal file cabinet
- ◆ Balls (playground, basketball, volleyball, tetherball)
- ◆ Concrete work to fix waterslide tank
- ◆ Stain for water slide steps and other stairs
- ◆ Scholarship money for campers who are unable to pay the registration fees and snack money. (\$100 per camper)
- ◆ Work teams to tackle projects in and around the camp buildings.
- ◆ Work team to lay up rock veneer around the new chapel and dining hall building.
- ◆ Concrete caulk (matching floor color) to fill relief-cuts in new building.