

BETHEL CAMP TIMES

An update from the hills of southeastern Kentucky...



Change... There seems to be a lot of it going on around Bethel Camp right now. In some ways summer camp is about change. You leave your home, your gadgets, the familiar things, and come to a place where you meet new people, sleep in a crowded cabin, and hear lessons from the Bible that challenge you to become more like Jesus. That is a lot of change.

Now we as a camp have embarked on a new building project. With each new week you can see a difference as you walk around the work site. Many weeks bring different faces to camp. It is fun to meet them. It is often really hard to say "good-bye." We gratefully thank all the willing volunteers who have helped to make these changes possible. Our goal is that by camp season, Phase 1 of the new building will be completed allowing us to sing praises to God in the new chapel, play games with the campers in the new recreation hall, and see counselors leading campers to Christ out on the front porch. Acquiring something new means changes have to take place.

There have been some changes in the staff team here at camp. We are going to miss the constant presence of Justin and Julia and their two boys Miles and Owen as they move into a new phase of their lives. Justin will be serving and studying at Eastern Kentucky University in the graduate program; Julia is carrying their third child. They are experiencing change and we are too.

Kendra Fisher has also chosen to spend more time at home with Simeon and Isaiah (Kendra and Darren's two boys). That means that we will be missing the help she gave to the ministry in the office. We've leaned heavily on her organizational skills during the past 5 years. The hole she leaves translates into change.



We are talking with a number of people about being involved in some capacity, and are learning to lean on the sure foundation of Jesus as we seek help from him to navigate the changes.

May the God of peace give us all courage and confidence as we experience this change and transformation. We know that if God brought about this change then his purposes will be accomplished through our experience with these challenges.

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate and reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." — 2 Corinthians 3:18



2014 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Jr. 1 A
(4th-6th grades)
June 2-6

Jr. 2 A
(6th-8th grades)
June 9-14

High School A
(9th-12th grades)
June 16-21

Day Camp
(1st-3rd grades)
June 30—July 4

Special Needs
July 7-11

Jr. 1 B
(4th-6th grades)
July 14-18

Jr. 2 B
(6th-8th grades)
July 21-26

High School B
(9th-12th grades)
July 28—August 2

Note: Campers attend camps which correspond to the grade they have complete by the end of the 2013/2014 school year.

Camp Pastor's Corner –Mark Driskill

As I prepare for my mission to Niger this January I remember my last mission to India. It was life changing. I worked with some amazing people, ate some really spicy food and had some phenomenal experiences. One of the most striking things was the day I stopped by a store where they sold Idols. Real ones. There was a glass case full of small golden idols you could take home and pray to. Wow! It struck me what people will do to find God. If they can't find one, they'll make one. However, as amazed as I am at this, I am also aware of the multiplicity of idols in our own culture and in our lives, even among Christians.

In the Bible, Idolatry is one sin that always invites God's wrath and judgment. On the cross Jesus took the penalty for all our forms of idolatry and bore the wrath of God for us. But still, we who want to live a life pleasing to God need to deal seriously with the idols in our own lives. As James tells us, "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world (a type of idolatry) is enmity against God?" (James 4:4) God will not share his glory with a fake god. He desires his best for us and nothing less. Let's take a moment and consider the idols we may need to deal with if we are to grow in our friendship with God.

1. What is an idol? Romans 1 tells us that sinful man has traded in the glory of God for the glory of created things. We have stopped serving the creator and started serving the creation. An Idol is anything or anyone who occupies the place in our lives that God alone deserves. Whether it's a relationship, a possession or a position, if it interferes or competes with your devotion to God, consider it or them an idol.

2. How do I know I have an idol? This isn't a perfect test but the following acrostic can help indicate if you have an idol. You just might have an idol if someone or something has become a source of....



I- Identity- If I get my sense of who I am from something it may be an idol. For example, if I find my value in some position I hold or in some relationship rather than finding my sense of identity in Christ then it is becoming an idol.

D- Drain- If I am constantly pouring my energy into it to the neglect of other things then I may have an Idol. For example, if I stay up all night to play video games on a regular basis so that I end up giving little or nothing to God and others, I have an idol. The thing about idols is that they always take more than they give. Jesus, on the other hand, gives more than he takes.

O-Ownership- If something or someone is so important to me that in a sense it owns me, and I could never give it up, then I have an idol. An idol will control you little by little; all the while you think you are controlling it. For example, a dating relationship in which you are increasingly dependent on a person for your happiness.

L- Life- If that person or thing in your life has become of such importance to you that your life would have no meaning at all if you lost it/ them. We all grieve naturally when

we lose someone or something dear to us. That's okay. The problem comes when we lose all sense of purpose for living without it.

An idol is more than a passion. It's great to be passionate about the things and people in your life. God created us to live and love deeply. No problem there. But idolatry goes beyond passion to obsession.

Two last observations about idols. First, be assured that, as Tim Keller says, "an idol will always break your heart." They never quite deliver the peace and fulfillment they promise. Second, idols lose their power at the foot of the cross. It was on the cross that Jesus defeated all fake gods and demonic powers. He set us free to worship and love the true God. He is the God who sets us free to be who we truly are in him. He always keeps his promises and always gives life. So as you consider the priorities in your life take some time to make a fresh commitment to the true God, and get rid of those idols.

...idols lose their
POWER at the
foot of the cross.

To all who do or have ever supported Bethel Camp,

I am sure a lot of you believe your donations are a way for underprivileged children to get away and just enjoy themselves for a week during the summer, but I can let you know you are doing so much more than that.

I have three children and they have all had the blessing of being able to attend camp. The boys have been the last two summers. Financially we are more blessed than we deserve but we still live paycheck to paycheck and camp is a luxury we really cannot afford.

Last year the boys wanted to attend camp so badly though, that I went ahead and filled out the forms because I had heard there were scholarships available and I was hopeful that our family would receive at least one. God is good and both boys were able to go to camp thanks to the goodness of others. I expected that they would have a good time and come home and life would return to usual, but God had other plans. During camp both of my sons received Jesus as their Savior.

My youngest came home and began to beg me to take them to church. Although I believed in God and had been saved since 2000, I had not been in church consistently for a long time and I was not living for Christ. My son's constant begging is how God finally convicted my heart and we started to attend church again.

The next summer all three kids went to Bethel Camp and our little girl came home saved. My youngest son (the beggar) has since been baptized and our sweet girl stands on the stage with the worship team prais-



ing God as a testimony to other kids. I recommitted my life to Christ and can feel the presence of God in a way that I never have before.

Bethel Camp started a waterfall effect in my house that has completely changed us...

So you see, you are not just providing these kids with a fun-filled week of vacation; you are changing their lives. You are changing their family's lives because they are carrying home what they have learned from camp.

Bethel Camp started a waterfall effect in my house that has completely changed us and that I will forever be grateful for. So for whatever reason you support the camp, know that you are making a difference; because without

the scholarships, my children may have never had this opportunity to know Jesus and to give their little lives to Him. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and may God bless you for your acts of faithfulness!

Sincerely,

One Blessed Momma





Building project update

The shell of the building is complete. The foundation, lower level walls, upstairs floor, walls, trusses, and metal roof are all in place. Next comes: exterior windows and doors; plumbing and electric; heating and air conditioning ducts; and then insulation. Eventually we'll get to hanging and finishing drywall; wood ceiling and walls; interior trim, vinyl siding, stone veneer, and landscaping. There's plenty to do if you want to be involved. Feel free to join the growing list of volunteers listed below.... (Thank you also to the many who have not actually come to camp but have been involved from a distance.)

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Bill Sutton, Kevin Matz, Jared Matz, Ben Kempton, Tim Fisher, Sara Fisher, Cletus Yoder, Sammy Waweru, Clark Hilty, The Short Family (Randy, Deb, Christian, Jacob, Samuel, Jonathan, Rebecca, and Joel), Kenneth Watts, The Boley Family (Bruce, Loma, Aleisha, Kris, and Anna), Jim & Marie Byler, The Shiloh Mennonite Youth Team (Wendell & Julie, Abigail, Earl & Maryann, Katie & Tony, Kylee, Shelly, Emily, Leanna, Gabby, Jessenia, Elizabeth, Mylen, Alissa, Amy, Kevin, Dale, Lance, Chris, Hector, Cory), Caleb Caudill, Josh Caudill, The Champ Family (Philip, Sharon, Kevin, Ephraim, Carlin, Paul,

Randy, Katie, Tristan) The Driskill Family (Mark, Mary, Kate, John Mark, Jack, and Grace), The Voth Family (Roger, Ruthie, Judah, Wesley, Malin, Avery), The Kurtz Family (Justin, Julia, Miles, Owen), Tommy Miller, Tim King, Emmanuel Wilson, Emily Stacy, Chad Lykins, James Fyffe, James Gideon Fyffe, Danny Downs, Dan Hilty, Wendell Slagell, Dave Angle, Larkin Jackson, The Bender Family (Mike, Ruth, Lincoln, Nina), Lavon Bender, Lowell Bender, Ryan Hildebrand, Jon Haldeman, Brennan Mullet, Christine Showalter, Kegan Wright, Zach Troyer, Haley Sweigart, Eric Wengerd, David Mohney, Travis Kauffman, Don Geiser, Spencer Lehman, Dawn Swartzentruber, Stuart Mast, Dale E. Jones, Leonard Stutzman, Everett Warfel, Richard Swartzentruber, Andrew Swartzentruber, Earl Yoder, Paul Riley, Phil Swartzentruber, Anthony Williams, Russ Miller, Darrin Hershberger, David Blair, Ken & Barbara Moyer, Tommy Davis, The Moore Family (David, Melanie, Stephanie, Micah, Hope), Steve Stoltzfus, Lee Cain...



Winter Banquet
Saturday Evening
February 1, 2014

The people that walked in
darkness have seen a **great**
light... Isaiah 9:2 ✨

Bethel Camp
Benefit Auction
August 16, 2014

An Open Letter from Justin and Julia Kurtz

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays tend to be times when we get reflective about our lives. We are reminded through all different avenues of the things we should be grateful for. Most of us gather with family and friends in cozy warm houses around overflowing tables of food to celebrate. We are reminded to stop and meditate on the things in our lives that point to how truly blessed we are, no matter what station of life we find ourselves.

This year I am thankful for something that is no longer as much a part of my life as it once was. After spending most of the last five years at Bethel Camp, our family has moved on to a different stage of life. Over the last 20 years Bethel Camp has had an enormous impact on who we are. As young campers Julia and I were challenged week after week to deepen our relationship with Christ. As counselors we were invited to lead younger people to relationship with Jesus and to mentor them as they grew. As teenagers we first took notice of one another and fell in love, a relationship rooted in Christ and birthed out of ministry together. As full time staff over the last five years we've seen the Spirit move in ways we never expected. During our time at camp, we experienced the birth of two of our boys and the death of loved ones. We've gained new friends and lost touch with some old ones. We experienced heart-ache, healing. It is impossible to look at our lives and not see Bethel Camp.

And so as I write this from our new house,



in a new place, where I have a new job, all of which God has provided, I am thankful for Bethel Camp. I am grateful for the opportunity our family has had to spend so much time at camp. I am thankful for the new things he is doing and I am excited for the future at camp. God's plan is not just good, it is great. It is the best. So as much as we miss living and working at camp and being a part of the awesome things that happen there, we are more thankful to have even been a part of it all and thankful for the new things that God is doing in our lives.



For five years Julia and I had the opportunity to be a part of a ministry that changed our lives in many ways. Thank you to all of you who helped make that possible. Thank you to all of you who made our lives richer in the process. And thank you for continuing to make Bethel Camp a place where the Spirit of God collides with the lives of young people.

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

- Ninja Blender with a 72-oz. pitcher (or other large-capacity blender)
- “Bus-boy” cart (Utility cart for Kitchen)
- 8 foot fiberglass step ladder
- Items for the 2014 Bethel Camp Auction
- Grass seed for seeding area around construction
- Fun “dress-up” clothes for skits
- Perennials & bushes for Chapel landscaping
- 3 sets of queen sized sheet sets
- Nurses to help for a week at summer camp
- Maintenance people to help during spring and summer camp
- Camera for summer camp photography

Bethel Camp Times

is published 4 times a year. Submissions are welcome.

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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. 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

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Find us online...

There's a phrase we used to hear every so often: "**Bethel Camp is the best-kept secret in Breathitt County.**" It was always meant as a compliment, but we got tired of it. We don't want to be a secret! Lately we've been working hard at making our presence known online. Look for us at:

- Our webpage—(bethelcamp.org) -You'll find camp schedules, information about our facilities, some camp history; and it's a handy place to make a donation.
- Facebook—`Like' **Bethel Mennonite Camp** on facebook to keep up with our latest updates.
- The camp blog—(bethelcamp.wordpress.com) Right now this site is mainly being used to keep you up-to-date with the chapel building project. Pictures are posted several times a week so you can see for yourself how the building is coming along.

From the Camp Kitchen...

Caramel Corn

16 c. popcorn, popped	1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 c. firmly packed brown sugar	1/2 tsp. baking soda
12 T. butter	1/2 tsp. vanilla
6 T. light corn syrup	

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Remove unpopped kernels from popped corn. Put popcorn in large baking pan. In a 2-quart saucepan, combine sugar, butter, corn syrup and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat until butter melts and mixture comes to a boil. Cook, do not stir, for 5 minutes more; then remove from heat. Stir in baking soda and vanilla. Pour over popcorn; stir gently to coat. Bake at 300 for 15 minutes and stir. Bake 5 minutes more. Spread on trays to cool, break apart clumps before it cools completely. Store in airtight container. Yield: 16 cups