

# Bethel Camp Times

Summer 2016 Edition

An update from the hills of southeastern Kentucky...



Summer camp is wrapping up and during the past two months, 464 campers have spent a week at camp. It has been a great privilege to spend time with these young people who are so eager to learn from God's word and apply it to their lives while they have loads of fun and games. I think we try to pack a month's worth of fun into one week, and it usually tires us out by the end of it. I've heard more than one parent tell me, "the kids slept all the way home."

Additionally, over 100 people have spent a week as a staff member for a week or more. (Just a side note, being a staff member signs you up for a 96+ hour work week.) I have been so encouraged to see these staff members being the hands and feet of Jesus as they spend a week or more with these campers. They answer questions about the schedule, they help them clean up the cabin, they go get a pillow for that camper that forgot one, they share their clothes with some camper who forgot some. There are times when they protect their campers from a snake on the path, other times they watch carefully so that everyone is safe on the creek hike. They play games in the heat of the day and encourage their team to work together even if they don't feel energetic. They get "filthy" in the shaving cream struggle just because the campers like to cover their counselor with shaving cream. And they pray "for" their campers and "with" their campers that the spirit of Jesus will do his work of healing, transforming and renewing in their lives.

The cooks will have prepared over \$13,000 worth of groceries during the course of the summer and cooked 10,582 meals. It takes a



lot of food to keep energy in these campers and staff all summer.

This summer along with all the donations from individuals and churches who give sacrificially to help us keep our camper fees low, we had some gifts given that were designated as scholarship funds for campers who couldn't pay the \$80 registration fee for a week of camp. In 2016 we were able to give out \$5,020 in scholarship funds to campers who needed help in order to attend camp (75 different individuals received partial or full scholarships to attend camp).

If I ever find myself wondering if all the effort is worth it, I stop and start reminding myself of the countless ways that I have seen God's grace doing its work of transformation this summer.

Pray with us that these campers who have made significant decisions for Christ this summer will find church homes to be connected with. Ask that God would raise up workers to disciple these young people and help "fan into flame" the gifts that are developing within them. Ask God to build His kingdom here.

## 2016 DATES

15th Annual Bethel Camp Benefit Auction  
August 20th, 2016

Pine Grove Church  
Family Retreat  
August 26-28

Oasis Community  
Church Retreat  
September 16-18

Writer's Retreat  
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

High School Retreat  
October 14-16

Jr. High Retreat  
October 21-23

Extra Mile Hike-A-Thon  
October 29th, 2016



# TRANSFORMED

2 Corinthians 3:18



## Hike-A-Thon news

Like the outdoors?  
Want to help Bethel Camp?

Bethel Camp's third annual hike-a-thon may be for you! The date is October 29, 2016. Watch Bethel Camp's facebook page or contact us for more information.

Last year, there were 57 participants who walked two miles or hiked 5, 10, or 15 miles. Most were at Bethel Camp, but 7 did their miles at other locations. Each person found sponsors to donate to Bethel Camp. The donations totaled over \$20,000. We finished the day with fellowship and a great meal.

And we all, who with unveiled faces  
contemplate 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



# Saturday, August 20, 2016

## Save the Date!

call to reserve a room if you want lodging to stay over night  
the Friday before and/or the Saturday night after the auction!

# Bethel Camp Benefit Auction

Baked Goods, Smoked Chicken Meals, Ice Cream,  
Handcrafted items, baskets, and much more

## Camp Pastor's Corner—Mark Driskill

I'm sitting here on the Camp basketball court with my Tablet reflecting on the summer. This is Jr. 2 B week (6-8th Grade) but I'm not speaking this week. I'm getting some things done before leaving this week for a mission trip to Swaziland. So I have a little down time to write and reflect. I'm remembering what I was like as a 7th-8th grader. I marvel at how the Lord has worked his grace in my life since then.

Growing up in a broken home I was a bit insecure and somewhat angry a large part of the time. One way I expressed my brokenness in those days was through some very negative, even filthy, language. I suppose I covered my own sense of shame and guilt by dumping my negative talk on others. I was critical, insulting, and to say I was crude would be an understatement. I used my language as a shield of protection to camouflage my own sense of unworthiness.

The Lord has a magnificent way of changing our lives when we come to him by faith and repentance. One February Sunday morning in 1981 (age 17) I wept at the altar of First Baptist Church of Travelers Rest, South Carolina and gave my life...tongue and all, to Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same. I think it's a wonderful irony that the very muscle I had used to tear others down as a younger person, is now the instrument of my calling. What I once used to tear people down is now employed by the master to build up His glorious kingdom and his saints around the world!

This morning in staff devotions I reminded the staff that the most powerful muscle in the human body is the tongue. Though it is among the smallest it has the power to alter a life forever. It can initiate life or death. Usually when we preach on the tongue, we tend to the negative. We focus on what we shouldn't say and how we shouldn't talk. "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." We say. While I appreciate the truth behind that, I wonder if we Christians are missing the point. I haven't done the research to back this up, but I suspect that the Bible has more to say about what we ought to be saying rather than what we ought not. Here are some powerful examples.

"Death and life and in the power of the tongue." (Proverbs 18:21)

"Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body." (Proverbs 16:24)



"The words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life." (John 6:63)

These examples show us that our words have creative and life giving power. Look at it this way. God created the world and blessed it with the spoken word. Jesus Christ is the word of

**WHEN YOU SPEAK  
GOD'S WORDS YOU  
RELEASE LIFE AND  
HOPE INTO THE SPIRIT  
OF THE ONE TO WHOM  
YOU SPEAK.**

God made into human flesh. Is it any wonder that his followers would have the potential to speak life into the world as our heavenly father does? We are called to speak life as He has spoken life. Your words carry supernatural power. When you speak God's words you release life and hope into the spirit of the one to whom you speak. Unfortunately we still feel the need to speak death to each other instead. This must change. It can change. So what do we do?

Repent of gossip, slander, cursing, lying and all other forms of godless death speech. We have enough of that going around, even in the church. Do what you

were created to do and speak life. Make it your ambition to bless, encourage, praise, and tell the truth boldly. Even if you have to confront someone fill your words with creative life giving power instead of dead speech. You just never know whose life you may save this afternoon. God bless you... better yet, God bless through you.



## Bethel Camp Times

is published 3-4 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 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  
Conference Association

# Thank you to our summer staff!

Abigail Abner  
Dustin Allen  
Clay Atkins  
Sarah Austin  
Connie Baker  
Grace Baker  
Hannah Banks  
Twila Bender

Shelbey Bivens  
Bruce & Loma Boley  
Kris Boley  
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Jackson Driskill  
John Driskill  
Katie Driskill  
Mark & Mary Driskill  
Jim & Charlene Duncan  
Maria Eash  
Hannah Elgandy  
Ashley Ellis  
Kendra Fisher  
Kayli Gizel  
Anthony Gonzales  
Shad Greenwell  
Cat Griffith  
Kayla Gross  
Miranda Haddix  
Courtney Hamblin

Brandon & Amy Hayes  
Sharon Headings  
Kirby Herman  
Chuck Hostettler  
Jen Huber  
Brit Hughes  
Marcus Hunsberger  
Travis & Ashley Johnson  
Wayne & Joyce Keim  
Ben Kempton  
Mandi Kempton  
Julia Kurtz  
Danielle Mahan  
Megan Mast  
Martha Maust  
Kellie McAfee  
Del McWilliams  
Sam & Angie Millar  
Eugene Miller  
Mary Esther Miller  
Hope Moore  
Andrew Morlote  
David Morlote  
Grace Ndungu  
Toby Noble  
Andrew & Sheila Nolt  
Jennifer Ramsey  
Eugene Reece  
Jason Ropp  
Mary Rose Ryan  
Montana Schemanski  
Travis Schroeder

Jeremy & Amanda Sheffel  
Shannon Sheffel  
Kevin Short  
Samuel & Melody Short  
James Southwood  
Sydney Spires  
Duane & Martha Stineback  
David Stoltzfus  
Karl & Margaret Stout  
Phil & Elsie Stutzman  
Bryce Swartz  
Larissa Swartz  
Kevin & Amanda Swartzentruber  
Phil Swartzentruber  
Sheyanne Trent  
Caleb Troyer  
Kristen Troyer  
Jerrica Turner  
Judah Voth

Roger & Ruthie Voth  
Anna Walker  
Marissa Wells  
Aaron Wetzel  
Emmanuel Wilson  
Christa Wolf  
James Wood  
Caroline Yoder  
Cheyenne Yoder  
Earl Yoder  
Shauna Yoder



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

### Thanks for these recent donations:

- ◆ Fiberglass 6 foot step ladder
- ◆ Pine lumber for the trim in the dining hall
- ◆ New window air conditioner units
- ◆ Oscillating fans
- ◆ Shovels & rakes
- ◆ Go-Pro waterproof video camera
- ◆ On-demand gas water heaters for new dining hall
- ◆ Commercial 3 bin sink for new kitchen
- ◆ Faucet with spray attachment for sink
- ◆ Counter-top work in new dining hall
- ◆ Hand towels and wash cloths for new kitchen
- ◆ Gas heated clothes dryer for new kitchen

### Items needed at the present time:

- ◆ White exterior paint for the cottage (7 gallons)
- ◆ Bath Towels, Hand Towels, wash cloths for guest rooms
- ◆ Solid bricks to rebuild campfire ring
- ◆ New roofing for 2 camp buildings
- ◆ 2 new cabins (one boys cabin & one girls cabin)
- ◆ Perennial flowers for landscaping
- ◆ 4 drawer file cabinet
- ◆ Balls (playground, basketball, volleyball, tetherball)
- ◆ Concrete work to fix waterslide tank
- ◆ Work teams to start remodeling Homewood Hall