

Camp Bethel News, Spring 2023, Fincastle, VA



BIG IMPACT 2023! Experiences at Camp Bethel make a lasting impact on our campers, our summer staff, and our guests. *Like a drop rippling outward on the Spring Pond*, ordinary gifts become extraordinary experiences. **Please give a donation**, for all the little needs that add up and make Camp Bethel extraordinary: *Together with God, each other, and creation.* [CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate).

MAKE A BIG IMPACT: Give an "undesignated gift" to help fund all the little things. *And boy-oh-boy, there's a LOT of little things!* SPONSOR our 5K, our Golf Tournament, our Disc Golf Course holes. Give a summer camper a scholarship. Donate to our Summer Staff Adoption Fund to help young adults accept the call to summer ministry. Every gift and every item helps! Thank you! [CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate).

CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST: Skid Steer, tracked or wheeled; Road-worthy pickup truck (2010 or newer); 15-passenger van (2015 or newer); Outdoor Storage Shed (used or new); Woven wire field-fence; Hog panels; Chicken wire and rabbit wire; Chicken coop; Egg incubator; Clothes washer and dryer; Refrigerator (full or mini); Chest freezer or upright freezer; LED light bulbs; new first-aid supplies; brooms & dustpans; 3'x8' plyboards for bunks (any thickness or quality); "Tree Cookies" (3"+ diameter and less-than 0.5" thick); Amazon wish-list at <https://a.co/5qG5JYq> or [CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate). Tax-deductible!



CAMP BETHEL SUMMER CAMPS 2023, "Fruit-FULL Faith: A Spirit-Filled Life." When we live together with God, with each other, and with creation in intentional Christian community, even for just one week, we gain person-to-person relationship skills to benefit our families, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world. Have you ever seen God at work and wondered why the moment was so clear and how to connect with those moments and feelings? Seeing the "Fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-26) all around assures us we have encountered God, and these same fruit flow freely from us when we walk in the Spirit. Scripture is honest about how complicated life can be. The Fruit of the Spirit show us we are on the right track as we observe, receive, and embody these virtues. Registration is open, so register early to guarantee your program choice. All information (brochure, forms, and schedule) is at [CampBethelVirginia.org/camps](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps).



SUMMER STAFF APPLICATIONS FOR COUNSELORS & KITCHEN STAFF: Counselors serve May 29 to July 22, \$320+/week (x 6 or 7), plus a \$300+ end-of-summer bonus & recruitment bonuses. Kitchen Staff serve May 29 to August 12, \$425-or-\$510/week. Info and apps at [CampBethelVirginia.org/staff](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff).



OUR STAFF ADOPTION PROGRAM: We hope to provide each of our 40 summer staff (counselors and coordinators) a \$300 end-of-summer bonus for completing their contract. Please adopt/help our 2023 Staff! Our ability to declare this is an extremely valuable recruitment tool. Information and giving portal at [CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt).



GIVE A CHILD A CAMBERSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP 2023: We were unable to hold our March 9 Scholarship Banquet, so please give a gift toward our Scholarship "Campership" Fun. In 2022 we granted camperships to 41 campers totaling \$14,395. Please give \$400, the 2023 cost for a child to attend one week of camp. Donate at [CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate) or mail checks with memo "Camperships" to Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.

WELCOME ELIZABETH BRANCATI, GUEST SERVICES COORDINATOR! After helping in our office since March 2022, Elizabeth began full-time on February 1, 2023. She is excited to meet you and help you arrange your visit! Elizabeth will manage all Guest Group reservations, Summer Camp registrations, and general office needs. Contact Elizabeth at CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or 540-992-2940.



FOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION OPEN: Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia seeks a dependable, caring leader to be our full-time salaried Food Services Coordinator. Cooking experience or training is required, and staff management experience is preferred. This position is available immediately. Starting benefits package includes salary of \$32,000-\$36,000, optional family/personal health insurance, a pension plan, paid vacation leave, optional on-site housing, and professional growth funds. Camp Bethel is a facility free from tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and drugs. Read the on-line application instructions, a detailed position description and more at [CampBethelVirginia.org/fsc](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/fsc), or e-mail questions to Barry LeNoir at Barry@CampBethelVirginia.org.

CAMP DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: "I have loved all of it, our Camp Bethel." After 21 years at Camp Bethel, Barry LeNoir will end his service after June 30 (see article on page 2). We seek our next full-time Camp Director. Summer Camp and staff management experience is required. Information and position description are at [CampBethelVirginia.org/director](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/director).



THANK YOU, DANIEL NAFF! Daniel departed his role as Camp Bethel's Food Services Coordinator on March 6. As we emerged from the COVID pandemic in 2021, Daniel stepped in and helped us just when we needed it. We are excited for Daniel as he starts a new career working as a Conservation Technician for the Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District. We celebrate with a big "Thank You!" to Dan for his excellent years of service in Camp Bethel's Ark Dining Hall and his many years serving on our Summer Camp Staff Team.

22ND SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS STORY FESTIVAL WAS A SUCCESS! Our March 31-April 1 Festival was another success due to the extraordinary efforts of dozens of volunteers & sponsors, our superb committee, and over 350 people in attendance. Funding raised for camp is over \$22,000! Save the date: April 12-13, 2024. [SoundsoftheMountains.org](https://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org).



ARK DINING HALL RENOVATIONS! With generous gifts from the Cassell/Stultz Family, Robertson Family, and an anonymous family, new roofing is in place over the auxiliary kitchen and new flooring has been installed in the Ark Dining Room and Ark Conference Room. Next is restroom and entrance renovations, plumbing, lighting, and kitchen fixes. We are so thankful for these families who choose to make a BIG IMPACT at our beloved Camp Bethel! [CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)

GET YOUR CONGREGATION'S 2023 CAMP PACKET. Did your Rep miss our February 11 "Camp Supporter Luncheon"? You MUST pick up this large packet of crucial information to distribute to your congregation. Pick up at the Camp Bethel Office or request a packet by mail at 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. CampBethelVirginia.org/rep



TREE COOKIES NEEDED: Please help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our year-round programs. Ideal "cookie" is hard wood, cross-cut showing tree rings, 3"+ diameter and less-than 0.5" thick. 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!**

BRIDGES AND BENCHES ARE EXCELLENT EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS! Camp has benefitted in recent years from several Eagle Scout projects. With new trails opening, we need several new foot-and-bike bridges, and portable benches are excellent additions to campus. Contact Barry LeNoir for information and locations: CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or 540-992-2940.

SUMMER STAFF COMMISSIONING SERVICE, JUNE 9, 5:00PM: Lend your voice and show your support to our Summer Camp Staff at the Ark Dining Hall. With your help, we will commission the newly trained summer staff for their summer of ministry and mission to over 1,000 children and youth during seven weeks of Experiential Faith Formation and Outdoor Christian Education. RSVP to CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.

CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K, SEPTEMBER 2: Our 5K Course covers some of our many trails, fields, and forests on our 470 acres. \$35.00 includes a race t-shirt, pre-and-post-race snacks, 10:15am BRUNCH. Plans, sponsors, and registration at CampBethelVirginia.org/5K.

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT, SEPTEMBER 20: Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 20 for our 2023 Golf Day at Ashley Golf Course. Tee off is at 12:30pm. \$75 per person includes green fees, cart, and a delicious boxed lunch. CampBethelVirginia.org/golf.

HOMECOMING AND HERITAGE DAY RETURNS TO CAMP, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7: Please participate and help in this vitally important fund raiser for Camp Bethel. Heritage Day forms, fliers and information are available at CampBethelVirginia.org/HeritageDay.



CAMP DIRECTOR, BARRY LENOIR, TO DEPART JUNE 30, 2023: Barry writes, "After 39 years of camp staff experience including 21 years at Camp Bethel, I am ready to hand over responsibilities to the next Camp Director. **I have loved all of it, our Camp Bethel.** I especially treasure the relationships with coworkers, summer staff, campers and families, congregations, committees, volunteers, guest groups, business partners, and peers in camping across the country."

Barry began his service on August 19, 2002, and his tenure saw 112% growth in camp attendance. He advocated a "Small Group Camping" relationship-based philosophy of camp ministry. Over 21 summers, he trained and mentored over 500 Summer Staff to be Experiential Christian Educators. Barry encouraged ecumenism and collaborative partnerships. He was an organizer and workshop leader at the annual Virginia Ecumenical Camp and Retreat Leaders' Gathering. He served on the Church of the Brethren's Outdoor Ministries Association Steering Committee from 2004-2010 and received the OMA Staff Award in 2011. He served on the American Camp Association Virginias Local Council of Leaders from 2005-2017, and he is an ACA Accreditation Visitor. He was a presenter at the United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministry National Gathering in 2013 and 2023. Barry, Angie, and adult sons Zander and Cyrus will relocate to their family farm in Floyd, VA.

Barry writes, "Camp Bethel is 'sacred ground' because of the relationships with PEOPLE, not just the site and facilities. We've experienced tremendous growth and success these past 21 years, and we've expanded the reach of our ministry by following a 'Program First' philosophy. I am excited for God's continued work through you at Camp Bethel, and I am very grateful for being allowed to serve with you and our excellent staff."

We look forward to introducing the next Camp Director to you, and we trust we can count on your continued prayers and support. Please ensure that your congregation has your 2023 Camp Rep/Supporter packet, and please participate in camp events during this important year. Find the Camp Director job information at CampBethelVirginia.org/director. A celebration for Barry's 21 years of service will be held on Friday, June 9, 2023 at 6:30pm at Camp Bethel's Gym. More info to come.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS at CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP BETHEL, CampBethelVirginia.org/events

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| <p><i>Summer Camp 2023 Registration is OPEN!</i>
 April 15, 2023 (Sat), 7:30am: Spring Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals.
 May 26-29, 2023: Memorial Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.
 May 27, 2023 (Sat), Family Day/Summer Camp Open House, 1:00-4:00pm.
 May 29-June 9, 2023: Summer Staff Training.
 June 2-3, 2023 (Sat): Parent-Child Overnight and Day Camp.
 June 9, 2023 (Fri) 5:00pm: Summer Staff Commissioning.
 June 9, 2023 (Fri) 6:30pm: Reception & pot-luck for Barry LeNoir.</p> | <p>June 11-July 28, 2023: Summer Camps & Adventures.
 September 1-4, 2023: Labor Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.
 September 2, 2023 (Sat), Camp Bethel PEP! 5K.
 September 20, 2023 (Wed): 29th Benefit Golf Tournament.
 October 7, 2023 (Sat): 39th annual Heritage & Homecoming Day Festival.
 October 14-16, 2023: Camp Bethel at Roanoke Go Outside Festival.
 November 4, 2023 (Sat) 7:30am: Fall Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals.
 December 7, 2023 (Thu): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet.</p> |
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2023	Young Elementary ages 5-8	Older Elementary ages 8-12	Middle School Resident & Day ages 12-15	Middle School Adventures ages 12-15	Trips/Skills Camps ages 12-18	High School Resident & Adv ages 15-18
Week 1 June 11-16	Mini Camp 1 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 1 B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 1 Elem Resident + Tube 1 Elem 3-Day 1 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 1 MS Resident + Tube 1	MS Adv Canoe Cave Climb 1 MS Adventure Tube 1	James River Canoe Adv 1	
Week 2 June 18-23	Knee-High Day Camp 2	Elem Resident 2 Elem Resident + Eques 2 Elem Adventure 2	MS Resident 2 Digital Arts 2	MS Adv WWRaft Tube 2	New River Canoe Trip 2 Digital Arts 2	HS Resident 2 HS Resident + Tube 2 HS Adv WWRaft Tube 2
Week 3 June 25-30	Knee-High Day Camp 3	Elem Resident 3 Elem Resident + Tube 3 Elem Day Camp 3	MS Resident 3 MS Resident + Tube 3	MS Adv Bike Canoe Climb 3	Backpacking Trip 3 Kayaking Adv 3	HS Adv Bike Canoe Climb 3 Backpacking Trip 3 Kayaking Adv 3
Week 4 July 2-7	Mini Camp 4 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 4 B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 4 Elem Resident + Eques 4 Elem 3-Day 4 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 4 MS Res + Eques 4	MS Adventure Explorers 4 MS Adv Canoe Tube 4	Paddlesports Adv 4 Mtns-Beach-Bay Trip 4	Paddlesports Adv 4 Mtns-Beach-Bay 4
Week 5 July 9-14	Knee-High Day Camp 5	Elem Resident 5 Camp Too Sweet 5	MS Resident 5 Camp Too Sweet 5	MS Adv Cave Climb Tube 5		Camp Too Sweet 5
Week 6 July 16-21	Mini Camp 6 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 6 B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 6 Elem Resident + Tube 6 Elem Resident + Eques 6 Elem Adventure + Tube 6 Elem 3-Day 6 (Sun-Tue)	MS Resident 6 MS Res + Eques 6	MS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6 MS Adventure Tube 6		HS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6
Week 7 July 23-28			See MS Adventures & Trips/Skills Camps	MS Moonrise Adv 7 MS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 MS Adv Canoe Climb 7	Backpacking Trip 7 United Mountain Adv Trip 7	HS Moonrise Adv 7 HS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 HS Adv Canoe Climb 7 Backpacking Trip 7

Together
with God
with each other
with creation

Camp Bethel
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