

Camp Bethel News, February-March 2020, Fincastle, VA



SUMMER CAMP STAFF 2020: COUNSELORS & KITCHEN STAFF: We seek hard-working and resilient young adults for our Summer Camp Staff. Counselors serve May 25 through July 17. Kitchen Staff serve May 26 through August 15. Position descriptions, videos, and applications at CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff. *BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!* Help support these ministry-minded young adults at CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt.



CAMP BETHEL SUMMER CAMPS 2020: "ONWARD WE GO!" Together: with God, with each other, and with creation. When we live together 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. Registration opened January 7, so register NOW to guarantee your program choice. All information (brochure, forms, and schedule) is at CampBethelVirginia.org/camps.

CAMP DIRECTOR'S 2019 SUMMER CAMP SUMMARY: Our 93rd consecutive summer camp season ran from June 7 through July 26; seven exciting weeks learning how to "Let the Peace of Christ Rule." 1,062 campers participated in Resident Camps, Adventure Camps, Trips, Skills Camps, and Day Camps including 152 participants in our 3 Traveling Day Camps and 32 participants in our Family Fun nights. 93 families pre-registered for 2020 camps. Camper families gave an offering of \$2,564 toward our "Seed, Scattered and Sown" Campaign. We are blessed with excellent staff, helpful partner organizations, and dedicated volunteers who served as Chaplains, counselors and helpers. 165 children and youth received Good-As-Gold funding from Virginia congregations totaling \$42,918. Watch our weekly summer camp videos at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/videos. Our 2020 Summer Camps Schedule is available at CampBethelVirginia.org/camps.

GIVE A CHILD A CAMPSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP: We annually grant Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$27,165 (2010-2019). Please give \$360, which is the 2020 cost for a child to attend one week of camp. Please give at CampBethelVirginia.org/donate or memo checks "Camperships" payable to CAMP BETHEL, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.

CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST: Road-worthy mini-van or 15-passenger van (2007 or newer); clothes dryer; kitchen refrigerator; chest coolers w/ handles; old smart phones (to use as cameras and video cameras); digital cameras; GoPro video camera; portable LCD projector; gas grill; laptop computer (Windows 10); LED light bulbs; new (in-the-box) first-aid kits; new (in-the-box) bike helmets & horse helmets; working vacuum cleaners; brooms & dustpans; 4'x8' plyboards for under bunk mattresses (any thickness or quality); "Tree Cookies;" picnic tables. Tax-deductible! CampBethelVirginia.org/donate

DONATE YOUR OLD SMART PHONE TO CAMP BETHEL: We need your disconnected smart phones (with their cables) for use as a camp cameras and video cameras. 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.

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, 2.5"+ diameter and less-than 0.5" thick. 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

PINEVIEW A-FRAME COTTAGE IS ALSO A RESPITE HOUSE: CadinsCure.org is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on giving hope to children diagnosed with cancer. The dedicated families behind CadinsCure.org have teamed with Camp Bethel to update the Pineview A-Frame Cottage for use as an occasional respite retreat house for families with children diagnosed with cancer. CMC Supply, Lowe's, Whitt Carpet One, and Roanoke College gave materials, time, and funding. Learn more at CadinsCure.org.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS IN 2019! Your gifts and participation boosted our 2019 fund-raising: Sow-the-Seed Scholarship Banquet 2019 = \$7,215. Other Scholarship Gifts 2019 = \$13,864. Sounds of the Mountains Festival 2019 = \$47,497. Benefit Golf Tournament 2019 = \$15,754. PEP! 5K 2019 = \$4,592. Heritage Day Festival 2019 = \$38,492. Christmas Together Banquet 2019 = \$12,335! Thanks to ALL our donors, and Thank You for believing in the mission of Camp Bethel! CampBethelVirginia.org/donate

NEW MONTH FOR TWO ANNUAL EVENTS: *Goodbye, August. Hello, September!* The "Camp Bethel PEP! 5K" is Saturday, September 5, 2020, and our 26th annual Benefit Golf Tournament is Wednesday, September 23, 2020. CampBethelVirginia.org/events

GET YOUR CONGREGATION'S 2020 CAMP PACKET NOW. Did your Rep miss our February 1 "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

SOW THE SEED SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 6:30pm. Plant seeds of FAITH in the lives of children, youth and young adults! At \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted), all costs and donations from the evening directly fund "camperships." RSVP by February 25 to CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or 540-992-2940. Payments accepted in advance or at the table, and your gift is tax-deductible! Our base fee for a week of camp in 2020 is \$360. Give the gift of CAMP; it's an experience that can change a life forever.

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY MARCH 28 (SAT). FREE 7:30am free breakfast & 1:00pm lunch. Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all ages. RSVP meals by March 22. CampBethelVirginia.org/workday

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL, APRIL 3-4, 2020 features excellent and nationally known tellers, Regi Carpenter, Lyn Ford, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Tim Lowry, plus food and a Friday campfire. www.SoundsoftheMountains.org



YOUR 2020 OUTDOOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE is Sam Foster (Cloverdale) Chair; Naomi Powers (Daleville) Vice-Chair, Allison Mullins (Cedar Bluff) Secretary; Zach Tabor (Ninevah) Finance Chair; Amanda Leddy (Williamson Road) Program Chair, Charles Huffman (Germantown Brick) Property Chair; Randall Eakin (Oak Grove); Sharon Flora (Oak Grove); Trish Haskins (Fairview Rocky Mount); Terry Johnson (Troutville); Junior King (Mount Hermon); Kim Martin (Hollins Road); Ron Rucker (Summerdean); Barry LeNoir (Camp Director).

NEW MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS! Volunteers headed by Rob Odenwelder (Troutville Church of the Brethren) added new mountain biking trails in our "Adventure Forest," Eagle Scout Isaac Williamson (Hollins Road Church of the Brethren) constructed a new bike/foot bridge, and St. John Lutheran Youth built connector trails, all of which expands our awesome trail system. We invite you to bring your bike and helmet to explore Camp Bethel's vast and beautiful acreage. Our NEWEST trails map is at CampBethelVirginia.org/groups.

UPDATED "RV VILLAGE" SITE DESIGN AVAILABLE: Site layout and images for Camp Bethel's long-planned 15-site "RV Village" area are at www.VirlinaFuture.org. Plans include water, electric, sewer, picnic table, campfire ring, and parking for 2-3 cars. Donate today!



Seed, Scattered
& Sown

"Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation" is the mission resourcing campaign of the Virlina District and Camp Bethel now through November 2020. As of December 30, 2019, there are 282 donors totaling \$461,483 toward our Victory Goal of \$750,000, and our Challenge Goal of \$1,000,000. For Camp Bethel, reaching our goal means: the **RV Village** will provide long-overdue "real" campsites AND provide extra off-season income; **road improvement** will solve ingress/egress issues AND protect the spring area of campus; **two new cottages** will increase summer camp capacity AND provide year-round rental income; **Ark entrance enclosure** will provide extra space AND improve our camper/guest experience; **new trails** benefit everyone! **JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN, and visit www.VirlinaFuture.org.**

'SHOUT OUT' TO OUR STAFF! Your excellent management team at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA includes Mickey Nichols (Facilities Manager), Wes Shrader (Food Services Coordinator), Jenna Stacy Mehalso (Program Coordinator), and Barry LeNoir (Director). David Flora, George Shockley, and Christian Sullivan serve as part-time Maintenance Assistants, Melissa Browning serves as part-time housekeeper, Kelsey Clark and Rebekah McDonald serve as occasional part-time office assistants, Beth Wiegandt serves as part-time Outdoor Education Coordinator, and Spencer Knox will serve as 2020 Summer Program Coordinator.



DID YOU KNOW? On November 6, 2019, Camp Bethel received a GIANT check (prop) for a \$500 gift card by the Daleville, VA Kroger at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for their remodeled store. The employees at Daleville Kroger selected Camp Bethel to receive the gift.

DID YOU KNOW? Our April 12-13, 2019 Sounds of the Mountains Festival was our biggest ever, raising \$47,497 (net \$34,082)!

DID YOU KNOW? Ruth Mae Hess, age 88, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2019 with hospice care at her home in the Hearthstone Cottage. Ruth served at Camp Bethel through Brethren Volunteer Service 1997-2003; she continued to serve in the camp office until 2011.

DID YOU KNOW? Camp Bethel hosted William Byrd HS Band Camp July 28-Aug 3, Camp Kesem (for kids whose parents have cancer or have died from cancer) August 4-9, and Salem HS Band Camp August 11-17, and we will again in 2020.

DID YOU KNOW? In 2019, Camp Bethel hosted 264 guest groups or events on 49 of 52 possible weeks and weekends!

DID YOU KNOW? From June 15, 2017 through March 5, 2018, 70 families and 8 churches/groups contributed \$10,010 to Camp Bethel in memory of Alton and Mildred Hipps, which the family designated for new metal roofing on Bethel Lodge. AND The Fellowship Class at Oak Grove CoB donated funds for new metal roofing on Pineview. AND the new roofs were added on April 30, 2019!

DID YOU KNOW? Benches or bridges make great Eagle Scout projects! Half the Spring Pond benches were rebuilt by Alex Gomez in 2015, and the other half were rebuilt by Zach Ramo in fall 2017. 16 new portable benches were built by Terry Lively in 2018-19.

DID YOU KNOW? Even with vigorous conservation efforts, 1 year of electricity at Camp Bethel costs over \$51,000, (less if winter is mild).

DID YOU KNOW? On August 19, 2019, Barry LeNoir began his 18th year as your Camp Director.

DID YOU KNOW? Total campers in Camp Bethel's summer programs: 1998 = 580; 2008 = 876; 2018 = 1144; 2019 = 1062.

DID YOU KNOW? Our 25th annual Benefit Golf Tournament and Dinner was held August 21, 2019. 104 golfers, plus 28 Sponsors and Donors raised \$15,753 for Camp Bethel, (plus \$1 extra dollar coin found on Hole #13). Date for 2020 is September 23 (Wed).

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

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube = CampBethelVirginia Tag/Pin #CampBethelVirginia "Camp Bethel Summer Camp and Event Center"

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP BETHEL, www.CampBethelVirginia.org/events

January 7, 2020: Summer Camp Registration OPENED.

February 1, 2020 (Sat), 12:00noon: Camp Supporter Lunch, RSVP.

March 5, 2020 (Thurs), 6:30pm: Sow the Seed Campership Banquet, RSVP.

March 28, 2020 (Sat) 7:30am Spring Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals.

March 28, 2020 (Sat) Summer Camp Open House, 9:00am-1:00pm.

April 3-4, 2020: Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival.

May 22-25, 2020: Memorial Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.

May 23, 2020 (Sat), Family Day/Summer Camp Open House, 1:00-4:00pm.

May 25-June 5, 2020: Summer Staff Training.

May 29-30, 2020: Parent-Child Overnight Camp.

June 5, 2020 (Fri) 5:30pm: Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner.

June 7-July 25, 2020: Summer Camps & Family Adventures.

July 19-August 22, 2020: Guest Camps & Band Camps.

September 4-7, 2020: Labor Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.

September 5, 2020 (Sat): Camp Bethel PEP! 5K Run/Walk. **New date!**

September 23, 2020 (Wed): 26th Benefit Golf Tournament. **New date!**

October 3, 2020 (Sat): 36th annual Heritage Day Festival.

October 16-18, 2020: Camp Bethel at Roanoke GO Outside Festival.

November 2, 2020 (Mon): Crisis Management Workshop at Camp Bethel.

November 7, 2020 (Sat), 7:30am: Fall Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals.

November 13-14, 2020: Virlina District Conference, location TBD.

December 3, 2020 (Thu): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet.

January 2-3, 2021: Winter Camp Youth & Kids' Retreat.