

# Camp Director's report to the Outdoor Ministries Committee

Saturday, April 1, 2017: revised 3/30/2017



## I. Summer Camps:

- A. On February 11, we distributed Summer Camp and Camp Representative Packets at the Camp Supporters Luncheon to the 24 congregations represented. On February 16, we mailed Summer Camp Brochures to all 2,300 past age-eligible campers. February 17-March 13 we mailed and delivered the remaining 68 congregational packets.
- B. We **need several MALE** summer camp counselors (see Jenna's report). We will hire a seasonal (mid-May through July 28) Administrative Assistant to help with data entry and all the paperwork of summer camps. Jenna has been busy recruiting and interviewing new and returning staff.
- C. As of March 30 we have 161 campers registered, compared to 121 on this date in 2016 and 135 in 2015. Our goal is 1,250 campers, and we have begun aggressive marketing efforts including:
  - mailing packets (10 brochures, 2 posters, cover letter w/ data) to 250+ area churches (United Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, and many others).
  - bi-weekly eNews blasts, Instagram and Facebook posts and boosted campaigns/ads
  - a second brochure mailing on April 6
  - posters around Roanoke/Botetourt businesses
  - a few paid on-line listings and magazine ads, (GUITV, Macaroni Kid, RoanokeSummerCamps.com)
  - Roanoke Times postcard mailer (March 17) and "Camp Listings" newspaper ads
  - GUITV VA Family Expo on Feb 11
  - Camp Bethel program March 12 at St. Marks UMC Daleville
  - the Roanoke Camp Fair on March 26
  - booth at Roanoke's GoFest back in October (again in 2017)
  - booth at Virginia's Outdoor Lovers Expo, Radford, April 22
  - take home fliers/stickers for 700+ 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders here April 28 for SOTM School Day
  - booth at YMCA Healthy Kids' Day, Blacksburg (VT) April 29
  - direct calls to past camper families
  - again producing and funding the 2017 Botetourt Camps & Clinics booklet featuring our camps (given to all Botetourt Elementary and Middle School students)
  - booth and sponsor of Botetourt Children's Fishing Carnival on June 3
  - booth at Troutville Trail Days June 3
  - programming July 24 and sponsoring the "Caring" Pillar for the Botetourt Youth With Character Academy
- D. Reminder that families receiving Good-as-Gold funding from Virlina congregations can now register on-line (paperless!) at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/GAG](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/GAG).

## II. Finances, Programs, Mission Resourcing Campaign:

- A. See the attached "Camp Bethel Income to Expense Comparisons..." For 2017, Beth has secured 4 "non-Brethren summer camps" which will greatly boost income. Data through March does not yet show March payroll or 1<sup>st</sup> quarter mileage reimbursements/transfers (increased from \$0.15 per mile in 2016 to \$0.34 per mile in 2017; IRS 2017 standard mileage rates is \$0.535 per mile).
- B. In the continuing saga of proving we are who we say we are as a 501(c)3 non-profit, Harry Rhodes has sent the State Corporation Commission a certified copy of a "Certificate of Transacting Business Under Assumed Name" for us as the Virlina District Board - Church of the Brethren, Inc. to conduct business under the name "Camp Bethel." Once we have copies of the certified certificate, we can also file with Botetourt County. We hope this will alleviate future confusion about Camp Bethel's charitable status as part of Virlina District as a subordinate group of the Church of the Brethren.
- C. 42 guests attended our March 2 Sow the Seed Scholarship Banquet which has raised \$5,625 thus far.
- D. **Jenna Stacy** is our staff liaison to our **Sounds of the Mountains Festival** Committee. All numbers point to another RECORD year, including Sponsorships and Ticket Sales. So far we have 650 seats reserved for our Friday, April 28 School Performances.
- E. As of March 21, the **Seed Scattered & Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation** mission resourcing campaign has 221 pledges with \$395,569.10 pledged and \$209,304.66 received. Lead gift visitation continues, and the Congregational Phase of the campaign (giving over and above annual Self-Allocations) will begin in early summer.

## III. Personnel:

- A. I am finalizing the updated position description and application for Food Services Coordinator, and on April 4 I will post and promote the job opening throughout Virlina and our community. Reminder that **Brigitte Burton** has announced July 31 as her last day of employment.
- B. I gave the programs at the Northern Area Ministers' meeting on March 5 and the Southern Area Ministers' meeting on March 20.
- C. I will present on behalf of OMC at **Ministry and Mission in Virlina** on May 6 at Oak Grove CoB. **Escaping Purgatory: Choosing 'WHY 2.0' to Overcome Existential Threats to Church and Camp.** *Church of the Brethren ideals (peacefully, simply, together) are as relevant as ever to reconcile recent seismic changes in society and church, and yet churches and camps continue to struggle towards stable vitality. A rapidly changing reality calls for focused mission, creativity, transformational leadership, and encouraging "smart failure." Using videos and shared experiences we will explore "starting with WHY," and together we will brainstorm how to build our 'WHY 2.0'.*
- D. **Jenna Stacy** has been and will be busy speaking at several Virlina congregations on Sundays through May, and **Beth Heaton** will speak at Ninth Street CoB on April 30.

- E. We will once again host and house Outdoor Education Interns (from Brevard College) one for April and another for May. They will work with Beth Wiegandt to provide daily KinderCritters and Your Outdoor Classroom programs, plus they will work with Jenna to help with summer camp paperwork and preparations.
- F. We will hire one or two seasonal (summer) Grounds and Maintenance Assistants this summer, and we will hire at least one regular part-time Maintenance Assistant as soon as possible. Buddy Crumpacker and David Flora have both indicated their desire to reduce their workload.

**IV. Property and Facilities:**

- A. As you can see, the Ark Pond was dredged last week (by Dennis Bays for \$2,500), and Mickey has been moving as much mud as possible daily. Dam repair is next, then refilling the pond and re-seeding grass.
- B. Rain gutter repairs and snow/ice roof guard installation at 568 Crowder House begin next week.
- C. I await a quote from Lee Hartman & Sons (Roanoke) for installation of new screen and ceiling-mounted digital projector plus speakers in the Ark Dining Room for use during Summer Camps for songs and announcements. Christiansburg CoB and Laurel Branch CoB await this quote to provide possible funding/adoption.
- D. Continued priorities: New cottage (David James Homes); changing doors at the Ark for handicapped accessibility; replacement windows at 564 Graybill House and Forest Lodge; completion of Willoro Cabin (Cedar Bluff CoB). Continued goals: several "little" repairs and improvements/enhancements inside and outside facilities; better WiFi in central campus of Ark, Retreat Center, Heritage and Gym (Barry); installing chimney liners at Shelter-by-the-Spring (Collinsville CoB) and Front Residence; construction of one or two basic Solar Kilns for lumber (Mickey has purchased supplies, supplementing with our own lumber); construction of a wood-shop addition to the back of the Maintenance Shop; fire-proof floor in front of hearth in Ark Conference Room; repairs & renewal of 568 Crowder House (plumbing, floors, exterior, roof, basement).

Respectfully submitted,

*BARRY*

Barry LeNoir, camp director  
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**Upcoming Camp Bethel Events:**

April 1, 7:30am Spring Workday & 1:00pm Vol Appreciation Luncheon, RSVP.  
 April 22, 2017 (Sat): Camp Bethel at Virginia's Outdoor Lovers Expo, Radford.  
 April 28-29, 2017 (Fri-Sat): 16th Sounds of the Mountains Festival.  
 April 29, 2017 (Sat): Camp Bethel at YMCA Health Kids Day, Blacksburg.  
 May 6-8, 2017: ACA Kayak Instructor Certification Course.  
 May 6, 2017 (Sat): Ministry & Mission in Virlina at Oak Grove CoB.  
 May 13-17, 2017: ACA Canoe Instructor Certification Course.  
 May 19-20, 2017: ACA Canoe/Kayak Trip Leader Course.  
 May 23-26, 2017 (Tues-Thurs): Summer Coordinators Training.  
 May 26-29, 2017: Memorial Day Family Weekend & Concerts, RSVP meals.  
 May 27, 2017 (Sat), Family Day/Summer Camp Open House, 1:00-4:00pm.  
 May 29-June 9, 2017: Summer Staff Training, applications open!  
 June 2-3, 2017 (Fri-Sat): Parent-Child Overnight Camp.  
 June 3, 2017 (Sat): Camp Bethel at Botetourt Kids' Fishing Carnival, Buchanan.  
 June 3, 2017 (Sat): Camp Bethel at Troutville Trail Days, Troutville.

June 9, 2017 (Fri) 5:30pm: Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner & Service.  
 June 11-July 28: Summer Camps & Family Adventures, "Branching Out"  
 June 13-16, 2017 (Tues-Fri): CIT Training and Practicum, applications open!  
 August 23, 2017 (Wed): 23rd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament.  
 August 26, 2017 (Sat): Camp Bethel PEP! 5K, 10K & Fun Walk/Run.  
 September 1-4, 2017: Labor Day Family Weekend & Barn Dance, RSVP meals.  
 October 7, 2017 (Sat): 33rd Brethren Heritage Day Festival.  
 October 13-15, 2017: Camp Bethel at Roanoke GO Outside Fest, Roanoke.  
 November 4, 2017 (Sat), 7:30am: Fall Workday, RSVP meals.  
 December 2, 2017 (Sat): Virlina District Board & OMC Retreat.  
 December 7, 2017 (Thurs): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet.  
 December 4-21, 2017: Schedule your Christmas Banquet at Camp Bethel!  
 December 29, 2017 (Fri): Summer Staff & CIT Reunion.  
 December 30-31, 2017 (Sat-Sun): Winter Camp New Year Party & Program.

**Guest Services Coordinator's report to the Outdoor Ministries Committee**

April 1, 2017

This is the busiest weekend of this spring for guest services, so please excuse my absence from this OMC meeting and the brevity of this report!

Every lodging space is occupied and we have two big youth groups and one quilting group staying for the weekend, as well as the Brethren volunteers here for workday. Bonsack Baptist youth are doing service projects for us: planting trees, raking leaves, weeding gardens, sweeping the gym, fixing the Adventure Village, and clearing trails. Today is tree planting day for our "Virginia Trees for Clean Water" grant, which was awarded to Camp Bethel. About 46 trees are getting planted around camp today with about 10 more being planted in a nursery bed next to Mickey's garden up at the Maintenance Yard, for later planting. Mt. Hermon COB youth and the Bonsack youth will be planting most of the trees. Notice the four-foot-high light green tubes around camp as you leave today. By doing this project, we are ensuring the lovely shadiness in the main part of camp, keeping our air conditioning bills low, and preventing erosion and pollution into our Wilson Creek/Back Creek/Mill Creek/James River/Chesapeake Bay watershed. Protecting this watershed contributes much to keeping our waters clean and safe, and protecting the health of the largest estuary in the United States... protecting the Bay means protecting the water we drink, the seafood we eat, the beaches and rivers we swim in, etc. etc. etc.

## Food Services Coordinator's report to the Outdoor Ministries Committee

April 1, 2017

As is typical for this time of year, I spent most of the time since our last report on tasks directly related to foodservice for groups: menu planning and ordering, food preparation, and cleaning the Ark between guest groups. All of our meal service this February and March has been for returning groups, including another successful year of Faithquest and Pilgrimage.

It is also the time of year to begin summer staff hiring, and it is going more smoothly than usual, thanks to a tip from Hannah Oakes about the job search site Indeed. Our posting on the site has resulted in responses from numerous qualified applicants, and I am currently in the process of interviewing several potential candidates. Already lined up for summer staff are Guy Castillo and Phoebe Hart, both longtime counselors, and Danielle Kelley, a new hire from Indeed.

The upcoming weeks will be full, with all the usual spring events, as well as some new ones. Today is the biggest day for food service this spring, with spring work day volunteers, the Christian Awakening retreat, and a quilters' group sharing meals. Sounds of the Mountains is only a few weeks away, and a large new midweek event with DePaul Community Resources will take place in May. Then, before we know it summer camp will be upon us!

In personal news, I am very busy planning my transition to law school in the fall. I am traveling to Boston the week of April 10 to visit Boston College and Northeastern (my top choice), and will make a final decision on what school I will be attending that week. Meanwhile, I am busy searching for apartments and roommates in Boston, an unfamiliar and daunting task for someone whose job has always included free housing ☺ I am also getting back into the habit of studying by spending as much time as I can with dense reading material and am currently in the middle of a large tome about the Italian campaign in WWII.

## Program Coordinator's report to the Outdoor Ministries Committee

April 1, 2017

My Spring has been full of reviewing applications and conducting interviews for our 2017 Summer Staff. Below you will find the staff that I have hired thus far. I have multiple female Senior Counselor applicants and Counselor-in-Training applicants that I am working through and awaiting recommendations and our final interviews. You will see that we NEED several Male Senior Counselors. Please continue to recruit campers and staff for Camp Bethel. Refer potential applicants to [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff) for details. We are working diligently to make 2017 the best summer yet!

NAME	POSITION
Abby Brubaker (Antioch CoB)	Assistant Program Coordinator of Day Camps
Jess Wiegandt	Assistant Program Coordinator of Adventures
Christa Craighead (Monte Vista CoB)	Spiritual Life Coordinator
Logan Williams	Craft Coordinator
Adam Kelly (Oak Grove CoB)	Trips Coordinator
Carrie Pascoe	Day Camp Coordinator
Spencer Knox (Oak Grove CoB)	High Ropes Coordinator
Hannah Beecher	1/2 High Ropes Coordinator 1/2 Adventure Counselor
Joe Lankford (Oak Grove CoB)	Health Coordinator
	Music Coordinator
	Pool Coordinator
Joslynn Lankford (Oak Grove CoB)	Adventure Counselor
Bethany Fletcher (Henry Fork CoB)	1/2 Adventure Counselor 1/2 Day Camp Counselor
Ben Johnson	Adventure Counselor
Daniel Naff (Cloverdale CoB)	Adventure Counselor
	Day Camp Counselor Female (need 5 more)
	Day Camp Counselor Male (need 5 more)
Holly Britt (Topeko CoB)	Senior Counselor Female
Alex Desseyen	Senior Counselor Female
Em Moore	Senior Counselor Female
Kaitlin Chaump	Senior Counselor Female
Alex DeFelice	Senior Counselor Female
Meg Lowman (Antioch CoB)	Senior Counselor Female
Callie Garst	Senior Counselor Female
	Senior Counselor Female (need 3 more)
Joe Pace	Senior Counselor Male
Jaelen Guerrant	Senior Counselor Male
	Senior Counselor Male (need 8 more)
Taylor Dudley (Smith Mountain Lake CoB)	Junior Counselor
Sarah Thompson (Mount Union CoB)	Junior Counselor
Zander LeNoir	Junior Counselor

### Camp Bethel campers and fees comparison 2000-2017:

year	# weeks	Camper Days	Total campers	Total +/-	CoB campers	CoB +/-	% CoB to Tot	Subsidized fee available until May 1	cost +/-
2000	8		588		429		72.9%	\$183.00	
2001	8		586	-2	432	+3	73.7%	\$193.00	+\$10.00
2002	7		580	-6	417 (NYC)	-15	71.9%	\$203.00	+\$10.00
2003	7		624	+44	437	+20	70.0%	\$205.00	+\$2.00
2004	8		650	+26	413	-24	63.5%	\$205.00	\$0.00
2005	8		751	+101	436	+23	58.0%	\$210.00	+\$5.00
2006	8		807	+56	413 (NYC)	-23	51.2%	\$210.00	\$0.00
2007	8		859	+52	425	+12	49.5%	\$215.00	+\$5.00
2008	8		876	+17	416	-9	47.5%	\$215.00	\$0.00
2009	8		887	+11	425	+9	47.9%	\$240.00	+\$25.00
2010	8		861	-26	398 (NYC)	-27	46.2%	\$250.00	+\$10.00
2011	8		826	-35	377	-21	45.6%	\$250.00	\$0.00
2012	8		933	+107	423	+46	45.3%	\$260.00	+\$10.00
2013	8		986	+53	368*	--	48% who answered	\$270.00	+\$10.00
2014	8	5,490	979	-7	310* (NYC)	--	45% who answered	\$280.00	+\$10.00
2015	7	5,811	1,209	+230	395*	--	52% who answered	\$290.00	+\$10.00
2016	7	5,542	1,159	-50	270*		49% who answered	\$300.00	+\$10.00
2017	7		Goal 1,250	+91				\$310.00	+\$10.00

#### SUMMER CAMP 2017 FEE COMPARISON:

These are comparable camps to Camp Bethel offering a basic one-week-long resident program with paid and volunteer staff. *In 2016, we calculated that it costs Camp Bethel \$362 per camper for a week of camp (staff, food, energy, insurance, supplies, etc.).* Each year we must move closer to charging the actual cost while still remaining affordable for our churches.

	fee/wk 2017	# nights
Camp Fincastle, Presbyterian, Fincastle, VA	CLOSED	5 nights
Camp Hat Creek, Presbyterian, Brookneal, VA	CLOSED	5 nights
Camp Meadowkirk, Presbyterian, Middleburg, VA	CLOSED	5 nights
Makemie Woods, Presbyterian, Williamsburg VA	CLOSED	5 nights
<b>Camp Blue Diamond, CoB, Middle PA District</b>	<b>\$276.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
<b>Camp Bethel, CoB, Fincastle, Virlina District</b>	<b>\$310.00</b>	<b>5 nights, 16 meals</b>
Camp Eagle, Fincastle via Shen. Baptist	\$310.00	4 nights, 13 meals
<b>Inspiration Hills, CoB, Northern Ohio District</b>	<b>\$310.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
<b>Brethren Woods, CoB, Shenandoah District</b>	<b>\$315.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
<b>Camp Eder, CoB, Southern PA District</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
Camp Alta Mons, UMC, Shawsville, VA	\$330.00	5 nights, 14 meals
<b>Camp Mardela, CoB, Mid-Atlantic District</b>	<b>\$330.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
Camp Piankatank, Virginia Baptist Mission	\$330.00	5 nights
Camp Overlook, UMC, Harrisonburg, VA	\$350.00	5 nights
Highland Retreat, Mennonite, Harrisonburg, VA	\$354.00	5 nights
Occohannock on the Bay, UMC, Belle Haven VA	\$355.00	5 nights
The Wilds (independent Baptist), Brevard, NC	\$355.00	5 nights
Triple C Camp (day camp only) Charlottesville VA	\$355.00	5 days
<b>Camp Swatara, Atlantic NE District</b>	<b>\$380.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
<b>Camp Harmony, CoB, Western PA District</b>	<b>\$390.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
<b>Camp Mack, CoB, N. Indiana District</b>	<b>\$395.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
<b>Shepherd's Spring, CoB, Mid-Atlantic District</b>	<b>\$395.00</b>	<b>5 nights</b>
Camp Roanoke, Salem, VA	\$450.00	5 nights
Westview on the James, UMC, Goochland VA	\$475.00	5 nights
Camp Hanover, Presbyterian, Mechanicsville VA	\$495.00	5 nights
Camp Highroad, UMC, Middleburg, VA	\$500.00	5 nights
Camp Chanco, Episcopal, Spring Grove VA	\$510.00	5 nights
YMCA Camp St Croix, Hudson WI	\$590.00	5 nights
YMCA Camp Silver Beach, Belle Haven, VA (6 nights*)	\$660.00	6 nights *adjusted to 5
Camp Carysbrook, for profit, Riner, VA (6 nights*)	\$859.00	6 nights *adjusted to 5
YMCA Camp Cheerio, NC (6 nights*)	\$885.00	6 nights *adjusted to 5
Wilderness Adventure, for profit, New Castle, VA	\$945.00	5 nights
Camp Friendship, for profit, Palmyra VA (6 nights*)	\$959.00	6 nights *adjusted to 5
Camp Twin Creeks, for profit, WV (12 nights*)	\$1169.00	12 nights* adjusted to 5
Timber Ridge, for profit, High View, WV (14 night*)	\$1250.00	14 nights *adjusted to 5
Camp Alleghany for Girls, for profit, WV	\$1272.00	5 nights
Camp Horizons, for profit, Harrisonburg VA	\$1395.00	5 nights