



- 1. Summer Staff Hiring:** Like all other camps and summer employers in Virginia, we struggled to find enough Summer Staff. We're aware that camps had to reduce programs or even cancel. We decided to raise weekly pay for Counselors and shift pay for Kitchen Staff, we increased recruitment bonuses to \$300, and we will use ½ of the Mother's Day Desserts fundraising to MATCH the Staff Adoption bonus. (We sold about 80 dessert boxes and raised over \$1,600!) The good news is that our recruitment efforts worked! We are now fully staffed in the Kitchen (hooray!), and we hired 6 additional Counselors. Did you see Barry interviewed on WSLs on May 28? www.wsls.com/news/local/2021/05/28/virginia-summer-camps-offering-major-incentives-to-fix-staffing-shortages/
- 2. June 11 Staff Commissioning Service:** We *WILL* hold a Summer Staff Commissioning Service on Friday, June 11, beginning at 5:30pm with a DESSERTS BUFFET at the Ark Dining Hall. (No dinner for guests, only desserts!) A short service of Commissioning will follow at 6:00pm and will be over by 6:30pm. We know this is a short-notice, but we invite the OMC and everyone to attend. We ask UNvaccinated persons to please wear a mask when indoors (not eating) and when close to others outdoors. Weather permitting, the Commissioning Service will be outdoors.
- 3. Staff Vaccinations:** We would have preferred a 100% vaccinated Summer Staff... *how about 94%?* We only have 1 adult and 1 minor who are choosing to remain unvaccinated, and they are cooperating and being very careful and compliant with masking protocols.
- 4. Summer Camp: VA Dept of Health mandates are now only recommendations,** which we are basing our plans and adaptations on the following: Virginia Department of Health Summer Camp resource: www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/summer-camp/; and the American Camp Association's "Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance. www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/field-guide-camps
Comparison of on-site campers: We have 552 campers registered as of 6/7/2021 compared to 657 campers on 6/7/2019. However, we are VERY PLEASED with our camper numbers, which are at 76% maximum capacity for the summer (552/727). Sunday check-in will be a "drive-through" style, and parents will be discouraged from leaving their vehicles to limit the potential exposure to each Unit or Cohort.
Still MUCH MUCH MUCH to do in preparation for Sunday, June 13, our first camper day!
- 5. Food Services Coordinator, Wesley Shrader, leaving position on August 31.**
We are sad to announce Wes' departure, but we are SO THANKFUL to have been blessed by his excellent service and care here since June 2018. Wes writes, *"It has been a pleasure working at Camp Bethel over the last three years... I will do whatever necessary to ensure a smooth transition after I move on. Please do not hesitate to be in touch about what I can do to help... Thank you so much for the opportunity to be a part of Camp."*
As soon as possible, Barry will review and revise the position's employment package with the OMEC, and he will promote the open position over all available channels. Best case scenario is to have someone in place to overlap with Wes for as many weeks as possible. Wes is also available and amenable to helping orient the new person after August 31 if necessary.
- 6. Financial Health is good!** We ended April 30, 2021 with a (tentative) net of \$35,650. (Net \$21,035 on April 30, 2019.) David Shumate secured a PPP2 loan/grant for Camp Bethel of about \$42,000 for 2021, for payroll and utilities. Donations continue to be strong, and our Guest Reservations are close to 75% "normal" for Fall 2021. Oak Grove CoB (Roanoke) voted to donate over \$20,000 to Camp Bethel in 2021.
- 7. New Construction:** The beautiful new "wrap-around" deck at the Bandage Box Cottage is 85% complete. The equally beautiful new Adventure Village is 75% complete: dining shelter is complete; 1st platform hut is 90%; 2nd platform hut is 60%. BIG, GIANT, HUGE THANK YOU to Cedar Bluff CoB (deck), Mt Hermon CoB (AVs), the Virginia Disaster Response Ministries (AVs), and 20+ other volunteers for multiple help days! We also assembled 32 Box-Fan Air Filters to improve ventilation in sleeping areas during summer camp. Video at <https://youtu.be/aw7fUMhNov8>, and received multiple donations of 20" box fans and 20"x20"x2" MERV-13 air filters. Links for items we still need are on our Amazon Needs List at <https://a.co/5qG5JYq>.
- 8. 20th Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival** was a free (donation-based) online set of videos, available April 17 through June 19 at www.SoundsoftheMountains.org. Through May 31 our 2021 story videos have amassed over 3,060 views and raised \$30,516.82 (sponsors and donations), with only \$6,842.87 expenses (thus far) for net (thus far) of \$23,673.95!
- 9. SUMMER STAFF ADOPTION 2021 FOR PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Individuals and Congregations have donated \$3000 to date, which we will match with (A) funds raised from Mother's Day Desserts, and (B) Scholarship Donations given for Summer Staff. This allows us to provide a \$200 "end-of-summer" bonus for all Counselors and Unit Coordinators. Info at

www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt. Staff connected with their adopting congregations and families on Sunday, June 6 for worship and fellowship over a meal. Everyone agrees this is an excellent program, and that everyone involved was blessed.

10. May 27-31, 2021 Memorial Day Family Weekend was a rainy and cool “full house” with approximately 180 guests camping and lodging on site. Meal headcounts ranged from 40 to 72. New Bethel CoB held their in-person worship in the Ark on Sunday morning. Several families from the Roanoke Valley Church attended the weekend for the 2nd time since 2019.

11. We seek construction bids for the new RV Village: We have approval from Botetourt County, and we have initial funding provided by gifts to the “Seed, Scattered and Sown” campaign, so now it’s time to build! Updated 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. Waiting to hear back from A.R. Coffey & Sons, and Dennis Brown Construction. *Any other recommendations?*

12. OMC Meetings for 2021:

Optional: June 11 (Fri) 5:30pm: Summer Staff Commissioning Desserts (5:30) and Service (6:00).

June 22, 2021 (Tue) 5:30pm: OMC Dinner (5:30) and meeting (6:00) at Camp Bethel.

August 21, 2020 (Sat) 9:00am. Budget Meeting. OMEC meeting & 10:00 OMC meeting at Camp Bethel.

November 12-13, 2021: Virlina District Conference and OMC Reorganization, at Grandin Court Baptist.

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

Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Recording of the March 6, 2021 Camp Supporter Zoom is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep.

Sounds of the Mountains story videos are available through June 19 at www.SoundsoftheMountains.org.

May 31-June 11, 2021: Summer Staff Training.

June 11 (Fri) 5:30pm: Summer Staff Commissioning Desserts (5:30) and Service (6:00).

June 13–July 30, 2021: Summer Camps & Adventures.

September 3-6, 2021: Labor Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.

September 4, 2021 (Sat): Camp Bethel PEP! 5K.

September 22, 2021 (Wed): 27th Benefit Golf Tournament.

October 2, 2021 (Sat): 37th annual Heritage Day Festival.

November 6, 2021 (Sat), 7:30am: Fall Vol. Workday, RSVP free meals.

14. Questions, ideas, input?