



1. The Outdoor Ministries Committee met via Zoom on August 22 from 9:00am-11:30am, and continued their meeting via Zoom on August 24 from 6:00pm-6:30pm. Actions included:
 - Recommending the 2021 Camp Bethel budget be the same as the 2020 Camp Bethel budget due to continued pandemic uncertainty and its economic impact. This is in line with the District's budget action.
 - Voting to affirm the OMC's recommendation from April 9, 2019 concerning Vacation Leave for Camp Bethel Employees.
2. **Improving finances:** Several factors have helped our financial position entering the fall.
 - We began 2020 with a positive reserve fund of \$47,219.52.
 - Camp's portion of the PPP grant of \$60,060 covered payroll and most utilities in May, June, and 75% of July. Even without PPP, the June-July-August 2020 payroll was the smallest in Barry's 18 years
 - Generous donations (info in #3) and earned income from family/guest rentals (info in #5) has greatly outpaced expenses.
 - As of August 31, 2020, preliminary figures show us with net income of \$38,160.00, which is the best August in many years.
 - In other good news, we had insurance coverage for "Loss of Earnings due to interruption by Civil Authority" for the period of March 30 through May 28, and after 2 months of paperwork, we received a check on September 2 from Brotherhood Mutual for \$37,356.26.
3. **Inspiring donor response:** From January 1 through September 18, 2020, we have received 492 gifts from individuals, groups, and congregations totaling \$130,846.38, which is 35% of our total 2020 income. (*As of this date in 2019, we had received 81 gifts totaling \$30,519.23*). Highlights include:
 - Thus far, in 2020, 22 Virginia congregations have donated a total of \$51,049.51. This is without a direct appeal from us to individual churches who traditionally participate in Good-As-Gold.
 - 105 donors gave \$8,610.04 in honor of our 2020 Sounds of the Mountains "At Home" Storytelling Festival.
 - 45 Staff Alumni gave \$5,334.81 in response to Tina Lowe Brockman's "Staff Alumni Challenge" on Facebook.
 - 47 Summer Camp families donated all or part of their 2020 camp payment totaling \$7,584.00.
 - 143 gifts have been received since our July 21 donation request letter/packet (mailed to 3,503 families) for a total of \$55,599.48 including 35 donors who gave \$3,919.12 in honor of Camp Bethel's 93rd "birthday" and in response to Buddy Crumpacker's challenge.
4. **"School's Out, Camp's In" Fall Semester Day Camps** for students in 3rd-8th grades received a lot of attention and praise. WSLs-10 covered it on August 17, a story ran in the Fincastle Herald on August 26, and even NBC Nightly News inquired about it. 20 families expressed interest, but only 10 campers registered and only 8 participated. We worked VERY hard since late July to develop this program, but the reality of students' "remote learning days" does not match what we can offer. We will end the program on October 2.
5. **Re-opening:** After we mostly shut down on March 15, between May 15 and September 18 we have had 65 families or groups make "last minute" use of the camp for income of approximately \$19,000. September through December 2020 will be a mix of cancellations, rescheduled events, some holdouts, and more last-minute additions. Since March 15, 133 groups, families, or events have cancelled their 2020 event at Camp Bethel due to the pandemic.
6. **RV Village next step is requesting proposals for construction:** We have approval from Botetourt County, and we have initial funding provided by your gifts to the "Seed, Scattered and Sown" campaign, so now it is time to build! Updated site layout and images for Camp Bethel's long-planned 15-site "RV Village" area are at www.VirginaFuture.org. Plans include water, electric, sewer, picnic table, campfire ring, and parking for 2-3 cars.
7. **Staff retention remains our priority:** Retaining our Camp Bethel Staff is a priority for 2020-2021. Any reductions in staff pay or staff benefits should be the absolute LAST resort after all other creative options, fundraisers, legal loans from ourselves, and donation requests have been exhausted. All the Camp Bethel full-time staff provide the primary of income for their families. Any cuts to staff pay or benefits will likely result in these staff immediately seeking other employment. Also, cuts to staff greatly reduces what services we can provide, even as we are re-opening for rentals and programs. So, the **absolute last resort** options might include:
 - Furlough hourly employees. The four full-time staff (and one Spencer Knox "intern") assume those responsibilities (mowing/trimming, maintenance asst., kitchen asst., and housekeeping).
 - Reduce full-time staff pension contribution from 12% to 4% or less. To be reinstated ASAP.
 - Reduce full-time staff pay, coupled with expected hours per week. Pay and hours to be reinstated ASAP.
 - FYI: Housing is provided for resident staff as a benefit to the organization and thus has no reported monetary value.
8. **Coming soon: Disc Golf at Camp Bethel!** Thanks to a generous gift from Stottsberg Engineering and with help from the Roanoke Disc Golf Club, we will soon install the "front nine" of our new Camp Bethel Disc Golf Course along the fields and forests of the "Trailblazer 2" southern acreage of campus. Watch our website and eNews (CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe) for updates and Hole Sponsorship opportunities. www.CampBethelVirginia.org/discgolf

9. **Still chasing money:** I applied and was rejected for a \$500 grant from the Brethren Mutual Aid Share Fund (<https://bmasharefund.org/>). I am in the process of applying for a one-time \$5000 grant from the 2020 Brethren Faith in Action Fund (<http://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action/>). Though we might not be eligible, I also intend to apply for a grant of up to \$5000 from Botetourt County's COVID-19 Small Business Grant Application (<https://botetourtva.gov/news/covid-19-small-business-grant-application/>). Kathie Robinson and David Shumate are investigating whether we qualify for the "REBUILD! VA" Small Business Grant Program (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/rebuildva/>). Camp Bethel is part of a "coalition" of VA Camps seeking CARES Act funding from the Virginia legislature since "overnight summer camps" were the only "business" not allowed to open during VA's Phase 1, 2, or 3.
10. **Events:**
- **September 4-7 Labor Day Family Weekend** occurred without most programming, and at about 50% of usual attendance. Highlights included Sunday morning worship with New Bethel Church on the Ark Lawn and our 5K.
 - **September 5: Our 4th annual "Camp Bethel PEP!" 5K** was in-person with safety protocols. It was our best-attended and most successful 5K to date with 124 participants (ages 1-80), 10 volunteers, and 5 sponsors raised \$6,910.
 - **September 23: Our 26th annual Benefit Golf Tournament** will be in-person with safety protocols. Instead of a banquet meal at camp after play, we will provide boxed lunches prior to play at the course. 114 golfers and dozens of sponsors have combined to make this our most successful Golf Tournament ever with anticipated income of \$19,000.
 - **October 3 Heritage Day:** Congregational events will replace the in-person Heritage Day Festival. Due to the continuing health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to hold an "in-person" Heritage Day Festival at Camp. Many congregations have already adapted and plan to hold individual fund-raisers, meals, or food/craft sales in honor of Heritage Day. Please participate with an event before the end of 2020 in support of Camp Bethel. Updated information is at CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day.
 - **November 3 Fall Volunteer Workday** is scheduled as an in-person event with "grab-and-go" boxed breakfast and lunch.
 - **December 3 Christmas TOGETHER Banquet** is TBD, as is our **January 2-3 Winter Camp**.
 - **2021? TO BE DETERMINED!**
11. Questions, ideas, input?

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

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| September 23, 2020 (Wed): 26th Benefit Golf Tournament, in-person. | March 27, 2021 (Sat), 7:30am: Spring Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals. |
| October 2020: Congregational events in honor of Heritage Day. | April 16-17, 2021 (Fri-Sat): 20th Sounds of the Mountains Festival, TBD. |
| November 7, 2020 (Sat), 7:30am: Fall Vol Workday, RSVP boxed meals. | May 27-31, 2021: Memorial Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals. |
| November 13-14, 2020: Virlina District Conference, ON LINE at Virlina.org. | May 28, 2021 (Sat): Summer Camp Open House, 1:00-4:00pm, TBD. |
| December 3, 2020 (Thu): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet, TBD. | May 31-June 11, 2021: Summer Staff Training, TBD. |
| January 2-3, 2021: Winter Camp, TBD. Day program instead? TBD. | June 4-5, 2021 (Fri-Sat): Parent-Child Overnight Camp, TBD. |
| January 5, 2021: Summer Camp Registration OPENS. | June 11, 2021 (Fri), 5:30: Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner, TBD. |
| February 6, 2021 (Sat), 12:00noon: Camp Supporter Lunch, RSVP, TBD. | June 13-July 30, 2021: Summer Camps & Family Adventures, TBD. |
| March 11, 2021 (Thurs), 6:30pm: Sow the Seed Banquet, RSVP, TBD. | |