

# Camp Bethel News, November-December 2018



## CAMP DIRECTOR'S 2018 SUMMER CAMP SUMMARY

Our 92<sup>nd</sup> consecutive summer camp season ended on August 3 after 8 excellent weeks learning about "Boundless Belief: God's Universe." 1,195 campers participated in Resident Camps, Adventure Camps, Trips, Skills Camps, and Day Camps including 330 participants in 7 Traveling Day Camps and 35 participants in Family Fun nights. We are blessed with excellent staff and dedicated volunteers who served as Chaplains, counselors and helpers. 188 children received Good-As-Gold funding from Virginia congregations totaling \$47,583. Watch weekly summer videos at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/videos](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/videos)

**URGENT NEED FOR CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS:** In summer 2018, 75 campers received "Campership" funding totaling \$20,430. Please give \$350, the 2019 cost for one child's week of camp. Memo checks "Camperships" or donate at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate).

**CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST, FALL 2018:** Mini-van; chest coolers w/ handles; old smart phones; digital cameras; GoPro video camera; portable LCD projector; gas grill; laptop computer (Windows 10); LED light bulbs (75-100 watt equiv); new (in-the-box) bike helmets and horse helmets; brooms w/ dustpans; "Tree Cookies;" picnic tables. Gifts are tax-deductible! [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)

**DONATE OLD SMART PHONE TO CAMP BETHEL** to use as cameras and video cameras! [CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)

## WELCOME FOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR, WESLEY SHRADER

Wes served on summer staff from 2010-2015 and in our summer kitchen staff in 2013. He is a 2013 graduate of Johnson & Wales University's culinary program (Charlotte, NC), and served as Banquets Supervisor at Hotel Roanoke from 2014-2018. Wes successfully navigated 12 consecutive weeks of summer camp food services and served over 26,000 meals from May 23 through August 18. He served as interim from May through August, and he began full-time on September 1. Say "Hello" to Wes at [CampBethelArk@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelArk@gmail.com).

**OMA NATIONAL RETREAT, NOVEMBER 11-15:** YOU ARE INVITED for excellent learning and sharing at the Outdoor Ministries Association's annual Retreat at Camp Bethel with the theme, "Waters of Grace." Join leaders from across the country for excellent-and-fun workshops, worship, and networking. Register at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/OMA](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/OMA)



## CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET FOR CAMPERSHIPS, THURS, DECEMBER 6

Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet on Thursday, December 6, 6:30pm includes an excellent dinner and fun Christmas program in our festive, decorated Ark Dining Hall. Your gift of \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted) will provide much needed funding to rebuild our Campership Fund. Our collective support of Camp Bethel puts TOGETHERness into practice (Acts 2:43-47). RSVP your family/group by November 29 to 540-992-2940 or [CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com).

## WINTER CAMP YOUTH & KIDS' RETREAT, DECEMBER 29-30

Winter Camp is a fun and spiritual holiday Retreat for kids (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) and youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) led by our reunited Summer Staff. \$70 includes 4 meals, lodging and program including Group Games, Glow-in-the-Dark Gym Party, a big bonfire, Bible study, crafts, hiking, nature fun, skits, sledding and other snow fun (if it snows), worship, wagon ride, summer photos slide show, 2019 camp preview... and Camp Bethel stickers! Register at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp).

**TREE COOKIES NEEDED:** Can you help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our upcoming programs and 2019 summer camp? Ideal "cookie" is hard wood cross cut showing tree rings, 2.5" or larger diameter and less-than 1/2" thickness. THANK YOU!

**PRELIMINARY "RV VILLAGE" SITE DESIGN AVAILABLE:** Site layout and images for Camp Bethel's long-planned "RV Village" area are available at [www.VirginaFuture.org](http://www.VirginaFuture.org). Plans include 15 new campsites, each with water, electric, sanitary sewer, a picnic table, campfire ring, and parking for 2-3 cars. More details coming soon!

## REPRESENT YOUR CONGREGATION AT THE CAMP SUPPORTER LUNCHEON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

12:00-3:00, all Camp Representatives, pastors, youth leaders, friends and supporters of Camp Bethel are encouraged to attend our Camp Supporter Luncheon. Please ensure that at least ONE person from your congregation attends. After a free lunch in the Ark, we'll share and distribute the tools and information you need to communicate Camp Bethel to your congregation. [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE VIRGINIA ADVENTURE EDUCATION CONFERENCE AT CAMP BETHEL, FEBRUARY 22

Help us show "holy hospitality" to 100+ students and leaders on February 22. The VAEC brings together Virginia's outdoor educators, guides, and collegiate programs. The conference provides a chance for industry leaders to network and discuss industry trends, while also creating opportunity for students from Virginia's College adventure programs to present in a professional setting. [www.vaaec.weebly.com](http://www.vaaec.weebly.com)

## WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATION TRAINING, FEBRUARY 23-24

Camp Bethel is once again partnering with SOLO to provide the BEST W.F.A. training available. Optional CPR w/ AED Training on Feb 22, and all-inclusive packages (meals, lodging, etc) are available. Check info and pricing or to register at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/WFA](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/WFA).

**SOW THE SEED SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 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 27 to [CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto: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 2019 is \$350. Give the gift of CAMP; it's an experience that can change a life forever.



**SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL, APRIL 12-13, 2019:** Our 18th annual Sounds of the Mountains Festival of Music and Storytelling features excellent and nationally known tellers, Donald Davis, Josh Goforth, Bil Lepp, and Gayle Ross, plus food and a Friday campfire. Help spread the word and recruit sponsors for the festival. [www.SoundsoftheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org).

**WELCOME SARA FOSTER, RESIDENT VOLUNTEER INTERN!** Sara graduated from Emory & Henry College in May, and while she looks for full-time employment she will serve 20 hours per week at Camp Bethel helping with administration, guest services, programming, and other tasks in this busy, busy place. Sara will live in Whippoorwill Cottage. She is the granddaughter of Sam and Rita Foster.



**SUMMER CAMP STAFF 2019: COUNSELORS & KITCHEN STAFF:** Paid and volunteer positions are filled on a first-hired, first-filled basis. Counselors serve May 27-July 18, and Kitchen Staff serve May 26-August 16. Detailed position descriptions, videos, and applications at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff). *BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!*

#### DID YOU KNOW? NEWS BITS

**DID YOU KNOW?** Camp Bethel hosts Lord Botetourt HS Band Camp July 22-27, William Byrd HS Band Camp July 29-Aug 4, Camp Kesem (for kids whose parents have cancer or have died from cancer) August 5-11, and Salem HS Band Camp August 12-18.

**DID YOU KNOW?** For the 17 weeks/weekends after Labor Day 2018, Camp Bethel will host 61+ different events and guest groups!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Research shows that reducing the deer population in an affected area to a level of 8-12 deer per square mile nearly eliminates ticks and Lyme Disease in humans AND improves the health of native ecosystems.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Total "Self-Allocations" from all Virginia Congregations in 2017 was \$72,187, the second lowest total since 2007.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Camp Bethel's 2019 total budget will be \$755,303.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Camp Bethel will host the OMA National Retreat Nov 11-15, and the Virginia Adventure Education Conference Feb 22.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Volunteers headed by Rob Odenwelder (Troutville CoB) have begun planning development of a mountain biking pump track, skills track, and expanded biking trails in our "Adventure Forest."

**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 has designated for new metal roofing on Bethel Lodge.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Fellowship Class at Oak Grove CoB donated funds for new metal roofing on Pineview.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Benches make great Eagle Scout projects! Half the Spring Pond benches were rebuilt by Alex Gomez in 2015, and half the Spring Pond benches were rebuilt by Zach Ramo in fall 2017. 8 new portable benches were built by Terry Lively in spring 2018.

**DID YOU KNOW?** On August 19, Barry LeNoir began his 17th year as your Camp Director.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Ruth Hess still lives in the Bandage Box cottage, still plays Sunday piano at New Bethel CoB, and turned 88 on Sept 7.

**DID YOU KNOW?** 93 golfers + sponsors raised \$15,473 (net \$12,500) at our August 22 Benefit Golf Tournament, and 105 participants + sponsors raised \$5,280 (net \$3,112) at our August 25 "Camp Bethel PEP! 5K".

**DID YOU KNOW?** Even with vigorous conservation efforts, 1 year of electricity at Camp Bethel costs over \$47,000, (*less if winter is mild*).

**DID YOU KNOW?** Total campers in Camp Bethel's summer programs: 1998 = 580; 2008 = 876; 2018 = 1195 (*1212 in 2017*).



Seed, Scattered  
& Sown

**SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN UPDATE:** "Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation" is the mission resourcing campaign of the Virginia District and Camp Bethel now through 2020. As of November 8, 2018, there are 272 pledges totaling \$534,341 with receipts totaling \$377,492 toward our Victory Goal of \$750,000, and our Challenge Goal of \$1,000,000. For Camp Bethel, reaching our goal will mean: 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** will benefit everyone! *If YOU wish to make a Commitment, visit [www.VirginaFuture.org](http://www.VirginaFuture.org) for info.*

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe).**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP BETHEL, [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/events](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/events)

November 11-15, 2018: OMA National Conference at Camp Bethel.

November 12, 2018 (Mon): Crisis Management Workshop at Camp Bethel.

December 1, 2018 (Sat): Virginia District Board & OMC Retreat.

December 6, 2018 (Thurs): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet.

December 29-30, 2018 (Sat-Sun): Winter Camp Program.

January 7, 2019: Summer Camp Registration OPENS.

February 2, 2019 (Sat): 9:00am OMEC Meeting & 10:00 OMC Meeting.

February 2, 2019 (Sat), 12:00noon: Camp Supporter Lunch, RSVP.

February 22, 2019 (Fri): VA Adventure Education Conference at Camp Bethel.

February 22, 2019 (Fri): CPR w/ AED Certification Training.

February 23-24, 2019 (Sat-Sun): Wilderness First Aid Certification Training.

March 7, 2019 (Thurs), 6:30pm: Sow the Seed Campership Banquet, RSVP.

April 6, 2019 (Sat) 7:30am Spring Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals.

April 6 (Sat): 10:30am OMEC meeting & 11:30am OMC meeting.

April 12-13, 2019: Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival.

May 24-27, 2019: Memorial Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.

May 25, 2019 (Sat), Family Day/Summer Camp Open House, 1:00-4:00pm.

May 27-June 7, 2019: Summer Staff Training.

May 31-June 1, 2019: Parent-Child Overnight Camp.

June 7, 2019 (Fri) 5:30pm: Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner.

June 9-August 2, 2019: Summer Camps & Family Adventures.

June 25, 2019 (Tue) 5:30pm: OMC Dinner w/ campers & meeting.

July 21-August 17, 2019: Guest Camps & Band Camps.

August 21, 2019 (Wed): 25th Benefit Golf Tournament & Banquet.

August 23, 2019 (Fri) 6:00pm OMEC & 7:00 OMC at the DRC.

August 24, 2019 (Sat): Camp Bethel PEP! 5K Run/Walk.

August 30-Sept 2, 2019: Labor Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.

October 5, 2019 (Sat): 35th annual Heritage Day Festival.

October 11-13, 2019: Camp Bethel at Roanoke GO Outside Festival.

November 2, 2019 (Sat), 7:30am: Fall Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals.

November 4, 2019 (Mon): Crisis Management Workshop at Camp Bethel.

[CampBethelVirginia.org](http://CampBethelVirginia.org)

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