



1. **Camp Bethel will “survive” 2020:** Specifically: We will retain core staff through (at least) March 2021. *We do not want to lose staff in 2021. We safely reopened for rentals, events, programs, and food services. We adapted our programs and food services, and we plan to offer Summer Camps in 2021. We maintained site and facilities, and paid invoices for electricity, insurance, and more.*
 - 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) greatly outpaced expenses in 2020.
 - As of November 30, 2020, preliminary figures show us with net income of \$103,229.02.
 - 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.
 - *Until the pandemic ends, we will continue to rely on donations to retain staff, safely reopen, and adapt how we operate.*

2. **Fundraisers performed better than we expected:**
 - March 5 Sow the Seed Banquet: 33 donors raised \$8,737.50.
 - April 3-4 Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival was moved online: 105 ticket holders, dozens of donors, and all 20 festival sponsors remained with us, raising \$35,417.55 (\$28,396.48 after expenses).
 - September 5 “Camp Bethel PEP!” 5K was held in person with health and 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 \$7,147.00.
 - September 23 Camp Bethel Benefit Golf Tournament was also held in person with health protocols, and it was also our most successful golf event ever with 116 golfers and 35 sponsors raising \$20,608.93, (\$16,832.69 after expenses).
 - October 3 Heritage Day Festival was cancelled, and instead 19 congregations held events, 90 individuals donated, and 65 persons ordered Apple Butter (lovingly made again by Cedar Bluff CoB), all raising \$30,983.49.
 - December 3 Christmas Together Banquet was cancelled, and instead Wes Shrader baked 2,596 dessert pieces into 216 Christmas Tins ordered by over 100 people, raising \$3,490 before expenses.

3. **Inspiring donor response:** From January 1 through December 30, 2020, we have received 889 gifts from individuals, families, groups, and congregations totaling \$230,645.92, which is 41% of our total 2020 income. *(In all of 2019, we received 145 gifts totaling \$58,312.48).* Highlights include:
 - Thus far in 2020, 56 Virginia congregations/groups/classes have donated a total of \$73,870.26 over and above their usual Self Allocations. 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.
 - 44 Staff Alumni gave \$5,514.81 in response to Tina Lowe Brockman’s “Staff Alumni Challenge” on Facebook.
 - 49 Summer Camp families donated all or part of their 2020 camp payment totaling \$7,684.00.
 - 36 donors gave \$4,019.12 in honor of Camp Bethel’s 93rd “birthday” and in response to Buddy Crumpacker’s challenge.
 - Participants in the annual “Hellgate 100+K UltraMarathon” held at Camp Bethel donated \$3,845.00.
 - 68 donors gave \$6,485.00 in memory of Barry’s mother, Alm LeNoir, who passed away on December 5.

4. **Report from Jenna Stacy Mehalso, Program Coordinator:**

Summer/Fall 2020 was quite different, but there was still plenty of work to be done at Camp Bethel. We spent time cleaning up and cleaning out (especially in the Ark upstairs closet); creating, recording, and editing an online Bible Study Series; running our most successful 5K to date; planning, promoting, and running our “School’s Out; Camp’s In” Fall Day Camps (August 24-October 1); creating an online Trading Post to sell left-over Camp Bethel merchandise plus 2020 Apple Butter; starting our first Christmas Tin Bake Sale (which was a HUGE hit!); and now we are creating and finalizing our “12 Days of Camp Bethel” Camp-At-Home Box to replace our cancelled in-person Winter Camp. *Whew...*

Throughout all these activities Spencer Knox, Wes Shrader, and I have participated in dozens of Zoom meetings with other camp professionals to discuss how to move forward. Currently, the three of us meet weekly to plan for the 2021 summer. Our goal is to plan for a true “small-group” Summer Camps in 2021, with campers and counselors grouped into units of 10 with all camp activities together, rarely interacting with other groups. We are creating this conservative plan for summer in hopes that restrictions will shift allowing for a more “normal” summer. Either way, we will be prepared.

5. **Site and Facilities:**

Mickey and his excellent crew have worked hard to maintain existing facilities while finishing extensive renovations on the Bandage Box Cottage. Work includes: Installing mini-split HVAC units into Bandage Box Cottage and Daleville Cabin; repairing large tree-branch hole in roof of House of Pillars; replacing propane-fired hot water heaters in Heritage with electric; emergency septic pipe repairs at the Ark (September 5); septic pipe replacement at the Pool Bridge; cutting and removing several dead Ash Trees in and around main campus; repairing Gym walls; and much more. Using gifts from the Hellgate runners and the Alm LeNoir memorial, we will purchase construction materials for completing the Bandage Box, a new Adventure Village, a Disc Golf info-kiosk, and a few deck repairs.

6. **Re-opening, closing, and reopening again:** After we mostly shut down on March 15, between May 15 and December 30 we have had 133 families or groups make “last minute” use of the camp for income of approximately \$47,000. Winter-Spring 2021 will be a mix of cancellations, rescheduled events, some holdouts, and more last-minute additions. Since March 15, 163 groups, families, or events have cancelled their 2020-2021 event at Camp Bethel due to the pandemic.
7. **The Virlina District Board** met several times from September up to December 12. Hannah Oakes (Summerdean CoB, and Camp Bethel Staff Alumnus) will serve as District Board Chair for 2021. Both Camp and District budgets will remain the same in 2021 as in 2020, including staff salaries. The Board approved OMC’s recommended Staff Vacation as part of their continued work to alter and improve the entire Virlina District & Camp Bethel Personnel Policies.

Camp Bethel Vacation (based upon a six-day workweek)

After Probation 2 weeks (12 days)	After 10 years 4 weeks (24 days)
After 3 years 2.5 weeks (15 days)	After 12 years 4.5 weeks (27 days)
After 5 years 3 weeks (18 days)	After 15 years 5 weeks (30 days)
After 7 years 3.5 weeks (21 days)	

8. **RV Village next step is requesting proposals for construction:** We have approval from Botetourt County, and we have initial funding provided by 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.VirlinaFuture.org. Plans include water, electric, sewer, picnic table, campfire ring, and parking for 2-3 cars. Will reach out to A.R. Coffey & Sons, as well as Dennis Brown Construction. *Any other recommendations?*
9. **Coming soon: Disc Golf at Camp Bethel!** Thanks to a generous gift from Stottsberg Engineering and with extensive site work from the Roanoke Disc Golf Club (and the possible involvement of an Eagle Scout Project), 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
10. **No longer chasing money:** I applied and was rejected for a \$500 grant from the Brethren Mutual Aid Share Fund (<https://bmasharefund.org/>). With no resources to complete the grant application on my own, I have abandoned my effort to apply for the “REBUILD! VA” Small Business Grant Program (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/rebuildva/>). I am on the planning team and Camp Bethel is part of the “Virginia Overnight Camps Coalition” 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, AND “lobbying” for our ability to safely offer overnight summer camps in 2021, should we be allowed.
11. **UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP BETHEL, www.CampBethelVirginia.org/events:**
 - Sign up for your “12 Days of Camp Bethel” Winter Camp At Home Box.
 - January 5, 2021: Summer Camp Registration OPENS.
 - February 6, 2021 (Sat), 10:00am: Camp Supporter Zoom Workshop.
 - April 3, 2021 (Sat), 7:30am: Spring Vol. Workday, RSVP free meals.
 - April 17, 2021 (Sat): Big 20th Sounds of the Mountains Online Story Fest.
 - May 27-31, 2021: Memorial Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.
 - May 28, 2021 (Sat): Family Day/Summer Camp Open House, 1:00-4:00pm, TBD.
 - May 31-June 11, 2021: Summer Staff Training, TBD.
 - June 4-5, 2021 (Fri-Sat): Parent-Child Overnight Camp, TBD.
 - June 11, 2021 (Fri), 5:30: Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner, TBD.
 - June 13–July 30, 2021: Summer Camps & Family Adventures, TBD.
 - 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.

12. Questions, ideas, input?

OMC Meetings for 2021:

- February 6, 2021 (Sat) 9:00am via Zoom. (Precedes the 10:00am 2021 Camp Supporter Zoom Workshop.)
- April 3, 2021 (Sat) 10:30am OMEC meeting & 11:30am OMC meeting at Camp Bethel. (In person and Zoom option available. Same day as Spring Volunteer Workday. Lunch provided at 1:00pm.)
- June 22, 2021 (Tue) 5:30pm: OMC Dinner w/ campers & meeting 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 Bonsack Baptist.