

Camp Bethel News, February-April 2019



URGENT NEED FOR 2019 CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS: In summer 2018, 75 campers received "Campership" funding totaling \$20,430. Our December 6 Christmas Together Banquet raised \$5,940 for 2018 Camperships, and now we need to rebuild our 2019 funds. \$350 is the 2019 cost for one week of camp. Memo checks "Camperships" or donate at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate.

CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST: Road-worthy mini-van; clothes dryer; chest coolers w/ handles; old smart phones (to use as cameras and video cameras); 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.

CAMP BETHEL SUMMER CAMPS 2019: "LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE" *Together: with God, with each other, and with creation.* When we live together in intentional Christian community, even for just one week, we gain person-to-person relationship skills to benefit our families, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world. Registration opened January 7, so register early to guarantee your program choice. All information (brochure, forms, and schedule) is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps, and watch weekly summer videos at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/videos.

TREE COOKIES NEEDED: Please help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our 2019 programs. Ideal "cookie" is hard wood, cross cut showing tree rings, 2.5"+ diameter and less-than 0.5" thick. 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FEB 22 ADVENTURE ED CONFERENCE AT CAMP BETHEL: Help us show "holy hospitality" to 100+ students and leaders on February 22. The VAEC brings together Virginia's outdoor educators, guides, collegiate programs, and leaders to network and discuss industry trends, while also allowing students from Virginia's College adventure programs to offer professional presentations. www.vaec.org.



WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATION TRAINING, FEBRUARY 23-24: Camp Bethel is once again collaborating 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.

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 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. A week at camp can change a life forever. Give the gift of CAMP!

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL, APRIL 12-13, 2019: Our 18th annual Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival 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 this important fundraiser. www.SoundsoftheMountains.org.

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.

SUMMER CAMP STAFF 2019: COUNSELORS & KITCHEN STAFF: We fill paid and volunteer positions 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. *BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!*



FAMILY FUN TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS JUNE & JULY: Experience a Camp Bethel evening TOGETHER! Join us for 5:30 dinner and singing in the Ark Dining Hall followed by Nature Fun and games, Stand Up Paddleboarding, or a River Canoe Trip, topped off with a campfire and S'mores. \$10-\$28 per person fee includes dinner, activity, supplies and S'mores www.CampBethelVirginia.org/family-fun-programs.

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY WEEKEND, MAY 24-27: Check www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay for the schedule of activities and our concert schedule. RSVP meals before May 18 by contacting us at 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.

FAMILY FUN DAY AND SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE, MAY 25: Camp Bethel invites you to come walk the grounds, meet other families and the camp staff, check a cabin, and enjoy refreshments in the Ark Dining Hall on Saturday, May 25 from 1:00-4:00. Meet at the Ark at 1:00pm; stay all day and enjoy Memorial Day Weekend free swimming and 7:30pm concert.

SUMMER STAFF COMMISSIONING DINNER, JUNE 7: Lend your voice and show your support to our Summer Camp Staff on Friday, June 7 at 5:30 for a free dinner at the Ark Dining Hall. After dinner, with your help, we will commission the newly trained summer staff for their summer of ministry and mission to over 1,250 children and youth during seven weeks of Experiential Faith Formation and Outdoor Christian Education. RSVP meals by June 5 to 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT AUGUST 21: Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, August 21 for our 2019 Golf Tournament and Banquet. Tee off is at 12:45pm, and \$70 per person includes green fees, cart and dinner at camp. www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf

CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K AUGUST 24: Our newest fundraiser for "the PEPIEST gang around!" \$32.50 entry includes a race t-shirt, pre-and-post-race snacks, fully stocked water/aid stations, prizes, and fun. 7:00-7:45am registration; 8:00am start. Sponsor packages available. www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K



**Seed, Scattered
& Sown**

SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN UPDATE: "*Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation*" is the mission resourcing campaign of the Virlina District and Camp Bethel now through 2020. As of November 28, 2018, there are 272 pledges totaling \$534,341 with receipts totaling \$388,891 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! *PLEASE JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN, and visit www.VirlinaFuture.org for info.*

UPDATED "RV VILLAGE" SITE DESIGN AVAILABLE: Site layout and images for Camp Bethel's long-planned "RV Village" area are available at www.VirlinaFuture.org. Plans include 15 new campsites, each with water, electric, sanitary sewer, a picnic table, campfire ring, and parking for 2-3 cars. Donate today!

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? In 2018, Camp Bethel hosted 198 different guest groups and events on 49 of 52 possible weeks and weekends!

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

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

DID YOU KNOW? Camp Bethel hosted the OMA National Retreat Nov 11-15, and will host the VA Adventure Ed 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 for 2019.

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? 93 golfers + sponsors raised \$15,473 (net \$12,500) at our August 22, 2018 Benefit Golf Tournament, and 105 participants + sponsors raised \$5,280 (net \$3,112) at our August 25, 2018 "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. *Goal for 2019 is 1,250!*

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe.

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

February 22, 2019 (Fri): VA Adventure Education Conf 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 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.

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

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

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.

November 8-9, 2019: Virlina District Conference, location TBD.

December 5, 2019 (Thu): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet.

December 27, 2019 (Fri): Summer Staff Reunion & Potluck Dinner.

December 28-29, 2019: Winter Camp Youth & Kids' Retreat.

January 4, 2020 (Sat): Virlina District Board/OMC day at Camp Bethel.

January 6, 2020: Summer Camp Registration OPENS.

February 1, 2020 (Sat), 12:00noon: Camp Supporter Lunch, RSVP.