

Camp Director's report to the Outdoor Ministries Committee

Thursday, June 23, 2016: revised 6/24/2016



I. Summer Camps:

- A. We are blessed by an excellent **2016 Summer Staff** of counselors and support staff, including many young adults from Virlina churches, CoB from other Districts, Bridgewater College students, and other excellent Ecumenical leadership. We hired 36 adult Counselors and Support Staff, 8 Junior Counselors and 11 volunteer Counselors in Training (CITs).
- B. Tabitha Hartman Rudy is serving as our part-time summer Registrar (Administrative Assistant).
- C. BIG THANKS to OMC members and family who helped with our June 5 potluck dinner. Thanks also to those who attended our June 10 "2016 Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner & Service," and to all who assisted in the success of our hosting the "150 Years of Ministry in Virginia" celebration on June 11 with 179 attending.
- D. As of June 23 we have 980 campers/participants registered compared to 999 on June 23, 2015 (only a 2% drop from this time in 2015, and my original data reported in 2015 was incorrect). Looks like we're making up for the delay in getting the new website and registration pages published. Our goal remains 1,250 campers, and we have aggressively marketed our camps.
- E. Thus far for 2016, we are providing 65 children with Campership funding totaling \$17,650 (average \$271.50). In summer 2015, 118 campers received "Campership" funding totaling \$29,370, (average \$249). In summer 2014, 143 campers received "Campership" funding totaling \$39,876, (average \$278).
- F. If you haven't seen our Social Media posts so far this summer, I encourage you to check our Facebook pages and our YouTube Channel. I will analyze our data at summer's end to see if our marketing efforts (including printing of the Botetourt County Parks & Recreation "Camps and Clinics" brochures) have measurable results.
- G. Reminder that families receiving Good-as-Gold funding from Virlina congregations can now register on-line (paperless!) at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/GAG.html.

II. Events and Programs:

- A. The 15th annual **Sounds of the Mountains Festival** at Camp Bethel (April 15-16) was another success due to the extraordinary efforts of dozens of volunteers, our superb committee, and our wonderful food vendors. Funding raised (net profit) for camp is estimated at \$26,000; an increase of around 13% in income and 22% ticket sales and. Big THANKS to our dedicated SOTM Committee and to DTS Reprographics (Nelson Hylton and Debbie Brubaker) for donated design work and thousands of dollars of donated printing. Dates for 2017 are April 28-29; www.SoundsoftheMountains.org.
- B. See Upcoming Events at the end of my report. Please help serve at the **Golf Banquet** on August 24.

III. Finances:

- A. See the document "**Expense Comparison 2012-2016, revised 05.21.2016...**" for our current financial position (as of 05.31.2016) compared to budget and previous years.

IV. Property and Facilities:

- A. The "Bishop Estate Escrow" has been used for a new mower, metal roofing on the "hoop-house" Adventure Villlage platforms (*still in process*), chimney repair in the Retreat Center, HOP ceiling, and new mattresses.
- B. We may be receiving help from Mount Hermon CoB to construct and install a covered entryway on the side doors of the Deer Field Gym.
- C. The addition of our new (bottom bunk) mattresses to Heritage, Cottages and A-frames is being followed by a year-long push to "fix all the little things" in each of these facilities. We will pair this effort with re-reaching out to congregations that have, or might, Adopt-a-facility.
- D. Christiansburg CoB and Laurel Branch CoB are awaiting quotes for adding new screen and ceiling-mounted LCD projector in the Ark Dining Room for use during Summer Camps for singing, announcements, etc.
- E. Continued priorities: Ark Pond & dam repairs; new cottage (David James Homes); tree "replacement" throughout main campus; changing doors at the Ark for handicapped accessibility; replacement windows at 564 Graybill House and Forest Lodge; completion of Willoro Cabin (Cedar Bluff CoB). Continued goals: installing chimney liners at Shelter-by-the-Spring and Heritage; completing the new road up Vesper Hill (culverts, trees, grading, seeding); construction of one or two basic Solar Kilns for lumber; construction of a wood-shop addition to the back of the Maintenance Shop; replacing our 14-year-old mower; repairs & renewal of 568 Crowder House (plumbing, floors, exterior, roof, rain gutters, basement).

Respectfully submitted,

BARRY

Barry LeNoir, camp director
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Upcoming Camp Bethel Events:

Now-July 29: Summer Camps & Family Adventures: "Not Afraid, Not Alone!"
 August 24, 2016: 22nd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament.
 September 2-5, 2016: Labor Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.
 October 1, 2016 (Sat): 32nd Brethren Heritage Day Festival.
 November 5, 2016 (Sat), 7:30am: Fall Workday, RSVP meals.

December 1, 2016 (Thurs): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet.
 December 3, 2016 (Sat): Virilina District Board & OMC Retreat.
 December 4-21, 2016: Schedule your Christmas Banquet at Camp Bethel!
 December 30, 2016 (Fri): Summer Staff & CIT Reunion.
 Dec 31, 2016-January 1, 2017 (Sat-Sun): Winter Camp New Year Party & Program.

Camp Bethel campers and fees comparison 2000-2016:

year	# weeks	Camper Days	Total campers	Total +/-	CoB campers	CoB +/-	% CoB to Tot	Subsidized fee available until May 1	cost +/-
2000	8		588		429		72.9%	\$183.00	
2001	8		586	-2	432	+3	73.7%	\$193.00	+\$10.00
2002	7		580	-6	417 (NYC)	-15	71.9%	\$203.00	+\$10.00
2003	7		624	+44	437	+20	70.0%	\$205.00	+\$2.00
2004	8		650	+26	413	-24	63.5%	\$205.00	\$0.00
2005	8		751	+101	436	+23	58.0%	\$210.00	+\$5.00
2006	8		807	+56	413 (NYC)	-23	51.2%	\$210.00	\$0.00
2007	8		859	+52	425	+12	49.5%	\$215.00	+\$5.00
2008	8		876	+17	416	-9	47.5%	\$215.00	\$0.00
2009	8		887	+11	425	+9	47.9%	\$240.00	+\$25.00
2010	8		861	-26	398 (NYC)	-27	46.2%	\$250.00	+\$10.00
2011	8		826	-35	377	-21	45.6%	\$250.00	\$0.00
2012	8		933	+107	423	+46	45.3%	\$260.00	+\$10.00
2013	8		986	+53	368	-	*48% who answered	\$270.00	+\$10.00
2014	8		979	-7	310 (NYC)	-	*45% who answered	\$280.00	+\$10.00
2015	7		1,209	+230	395	-	52% who answered	\$290.00	+\$10.00
2016	7		Goal 1,250	Goal +41				\$300.00	+\$10.00

Guest Services Coordinator's Report to the OMC, June 23, 2016:

Camp has had 1381 "guest nights" and 349 "guest days" from January 1 to June 19. This does not include day guests for Sounds of the Mountain, and it does not include Memorial Day visitors. The guest services income tally thus far has exceeded \$62,000 for 2016.

We have 13 more weekend picnics scheduled in our shelters. There are 6 available slots for renting Shelter by the Spring. A new guest group, PMCC church (aka "4th Watch") will be renting most of the camp on the odd week between band camps. Sept. and Oct. weekends are pretty full, with space left on just two weekends.

I continue to be very pleased with Melissa Browning, our housekeeper. She does an excellent job: I rarely find anything missed when I check buildings after she cleans. She also shows great interest in Camp Bethel. This summer, she is cleaning several cabins each weekend, to keep the buildings in better shape over the summer months. She also cleans the bathhouses on Wednesdays and weekends.

The Nature Corner is back up again for the summer, and every Monday is Pond Day. Again, this summer, the Seven Summits of Camp Bethel Activity is available for camper units. During Staff training, I took half the counselors out to the Shale Walls beyond the Adventure Village. No trail exists to these two places, and it was good to acquaint these counselors with the off-trail route finding to get to the walls by land. Most counselors and their units walk up the creek bed to get to these walls. The Little Shale Wall and the Big Shale Wall are two steep embankments of shale rock on the bank of an unnamed tributary creek of Wilson Creek. The campers write with rock paint on pieces of shale and prop them up on the wall of rock. You can see many rocks from past summers still in place with names of former campers and staff.

I apologize for missing this OMC meeting. During July, I am on call to go to Front Royal for my daughter's new baby. Because of that, I volunteered to host all the weekends of June. So I am taking Thursdays as my day off in June.

Beth Heaton
 Guest Services Coordinator

Facilities Manager's Report to the OMC, 23 June 2016

This spring camp purchased a new mower from Roanoke golf cart. It is a 61" cut just like the old one but does have more power. The old mower has done a great job over the years and still works but the age and power loss it was time to replace it. We are in the process of installing some new LED dusk to dawn lights on the poles throughout camp that were donated by Gary Ayers at Commonwealth Lighting (Hollins Road CoB). Still waiting on excavator for the clean out and repair of the Ark Pond; hopefully someone will be here soon.

Mickey Nichols
Facilities Manager

Program Coordinator's Report to the OMC, June 23, 2016

As the Program Coordinator I have been very busy since the last OMC meeting in March. I was able to attend Roundtable at Bridgewater College from April 8-10 to represent Camp Bethel and guide a small group. The Camp Bethel display was set up throughout the weekend at Bridgewater College. Camp Bethel also had a spot in the Roanoke Camp Fair on April 9, where we had summer staff interacting with potential campers and handing out Camp Bethel stickers. The following weekend, April 15-16, was Sounds of the Mountains where we had a constant Trading Post table set up for sales and had a few summer staff alumni come to volunteer. We were able to sell new Sounds of the Mountains t-shirts and Camp Bethel gear. On Friday morning, before the festival, we had the school field trip with the story tellers and I was able to guide a school around through the field trip and give a plug for future Camp Bethel campers. The weekend went smoothly with a big turnout.

Antioch Church of the Brethren invited me to their service on April 17 to give an update on Camp Bethel and our summer program. Then on April 19 I was able to visit Cloverdale Church of the Brethren for their women's lunch and to give an update on summer programming. The following Sunday, April 24, I led a Sunday School class on Camp Bethel's curriculum this summer, Not Afraid Not Alone and I was able to share an update with them as well. Throughout the month of April and early May I continued to interview and hire summer staff! I have hired a full staff consisting of 11 leadership staff, 5 Adventure Counselors, 16 Senior Counselors, 3 Day Camp Counselors, 8 Junior Counselors, and 11 Counselors in Training.

Summer staff began trickling in on May 17 for many different reasons. We hosted a free Mental Health First Aid class on May 18 which I was able to attend. On May 19 and 20 we had a group of 15 helping Beth Wiegandt with Read Mountain's sixth grade class field trip that we hosted. With some of our top staff, we were able to attend CampCon, which is a conference in Falls Church, Virginia specifically geared to summer staff. The conference was on May 22. Camp Bethel won the spirit award because our staff were so excited to be there and great participants in all activities hosted. Our Leadership Training began May 24-27 where we worked to prepare Camp Bethel for the staff, the campers, and the summer as well as our hearts and minds to train our incoming staff. Between Leadership and Staff Training we had Memorial Day weekend and our Open House where we gave a few families tours of Camp Bethel and encouraged them to come this summer. Staff Training began on Monday, May 30 and went through Friday, June 11 closing with a Commissioning Service to bless our staff into their summer. On the Sunday in the middle of our Staff Training we split our staff to attend Troutville Church of the Brethren's Sunday worship and Cloverdale Church of the Brethren. For dinner that evening the staff, OMC, and our partnering camps provided food for a potluck and we were able to come together to share food and fellowship together. We also hosted the 150th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren on June 12 where we had staff sprinkled throughout the weekend to lead and help with different activities.

Currently we are in our second week of camp and summer is in full swing! The staff are FANTASTIC! We have a very encouraging and supportive team! Week one was a learning week and week two has been strong!

Jenna Stacy
Program Coordinator