



Pine Lake Fellowship Camp

Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 2014 EDITION



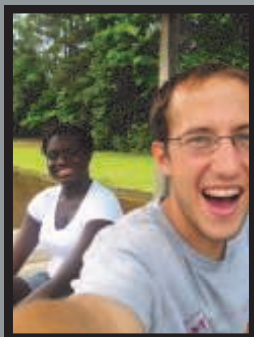
Visit our Facebook page to view photos & videos from Summer Camp.

WISH LIST

- White bath towels
- White Queen bed sheets



Campers' names on the cross



Stephen Yoder

From the Director...

"Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed."

Isaiah 53:4-5



The sound a rustic hammer makes when striking the heads of three long, slender nails is a noise that I won't soon forget. During campfire on an unusually cool Mississippi summer night, campers and staff alike were challenged to not only strike three nails onto a wooden cross, but to write their name on the cross. It showed that it was not Jesus' cross, but that the cross belonged to each of us. He bore the punishment and took our sins upon Himself as a sacrifice (1 Peter 2:24). It was a meaningful experience for me to

The sound a rustic hammer makes when striking the heads of three



write my name on the cross and drive those three nails into that cross. As I sat around the campfire with my eyes closed, I was praying for the campers. The noise I heard over one hundred times that evening was the hammer hitting those nails.

We truly had a great summer of ministry. There was a caring, compassionate group of staff, accompanied with an arsenal of servant-hearted volunteers who poured love upon each camper. All together, we had 263 campers attend camp (195 in PLFC's 5 week program and 68 in Good News Fellowship's program). It is a tremendous blessing to see children and youth of this generation make over fifty commitments and rededications to Christ. Thank you for your prayers and support throughout the summer.

My Reflections...by Stephen Yoder

The past five years at camp have challenged me more than I could have ever imagined. I remember my first year of orientation in 2010. I was overwhelmed with the responsibility that I was going to have that summer. Over time, that feeling changed. Now I think of camp as a great opportunity that I have been blessed with.

My responsibilities at camp have changed, but the goal has not. My goal for the campers is that they may experience an environment that is conducive for them to experience the love God has for them. Many campers come

from broken backgrounds and struggle with who they are in Christ. Sometimes at camp, to be honest, I wonder if what I am doing is actually making a difference at all. This summer the campers were given the opportunity to share what they have learned the week at camp. Through their joyful tears, I heard them say that they have never experienced a feeling of love from their peers and that they never want to leave camp. When I heard these things, I realized that God is using me and my fellow staff members (Continued on next page)

(My Reflections continued)

to reach out to the campers. He used us to make a difference in the campers' lives. It is a wonderful feeling. I greatly appreciated your prayers for us this summer. You were a part of summer camp even though you may have not been there in person. I hope you get to see a glimpse of what you were a part of this summer. God Bless, Stephen Yoder

Stephen Yoder has served on summer staff since 2010 as a counselor and Summer Director. He has been an instrumental part of summer camp by leading both campers and staff through word and action.

Dedicated to His Kingdom

Along with the annual Open House on April 26, there was a special dedication ceremony held in the lodging end of Tall Pines Fellowship Center. Over a dozen people joined in the celebration. We gathered and prayed the following in each room:

Peace be here in the name of the God of life; the peace of Christ above all peace, the Lord's blessing over all.

May God be guardian of this place and bring His peace. May God's love be shared here, may God's will be found here, and may there be peace between all people who come to enjoy this space.

adapted from Common Prayer A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals

It was a special day for each person there. It took over five years to reach the point where Tall Pines can start being utilized. We look forward to the coming day when 100% of TPFC will be used.

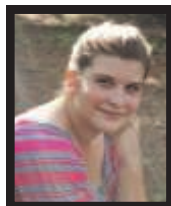


Ribbon Cutting (L to R): Christine Beachy, Matt Graybill, Mike Clymer, Paul Shelly, & Melissa McClure

What campers said....

"Summer camp is my favorite thing in the summer. I meet new people, learn a lot, and explore nature. If I had to rank my camp from one to ten, I would pick TEN!"

—Hannah Grace



"I think this is an awesome camp. Everyone has lots of fun and you learn about God. I want to come here every year, because it is fun, and I learn and just really love it here!"

—Meadow

Pine Lake Fellowship Camp Calendar of Events

August 9	PLFC Board Meeting
August 29-Sept. 1	Family Camp
September 19-21	Youth Rally
October 4	Camp Sale at Gulfhaven
November 7-8	PLFC Board Retreat

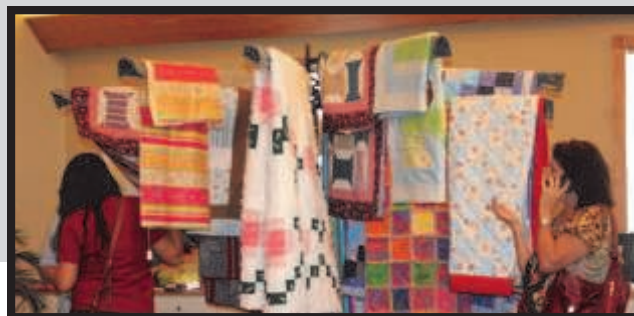
Camp Sale 2014

What: Benefit Sale & Auction
Where: Gulfhaven Mennonite Church
When: October 4
Why: Supports the ministry of PLFC

How can I help?

- Make a craft
- Serve in a booth
- Attend!

For more information, contact Matt Graybill at matt@pinelakecamp.com.



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