

# CAMP

CHALLENGE ORDINARY    ARRIVE OUTSIDE    MAKE CONNECTIONS    PLANT ROOTS

Fall 2017

# MANTOWAGAN

## Summer Recap ~ Rick

The month of May was quite a faith builder! Camper registrations were arriving earlier than ever and the weeks were filling up. Yet, many of the counselor applications weren't even in the mail. Some of the nurses couldn't come. Our list of volunteer kitchen crews were sparse. Suddenly two weeks before camp my left eye went black. A day later I was in a Pittsburgh hospital having my retina reattached. To quote my nephew who is an eye surgeon, "The surgery's not bad, but the recovery is a bear". Then on May 30 a severe thunderstorm devastated the trails and roads around the camp.



Yet the Lord provided the counselors, nurses, kitchen help, and grounds crews we needed! My surgery went well and everyone pitched in and made recovery possible. I especially want to thank my family and Harold and Bonnie Eten as they went above and beyond to keep the "behind the scenes" running smoothly. While the weeks before camp were difficult, the five weeks of West Penn District Grace Brethren summer camp were awesome and the summer's theme of Thrive became reality!

Two of the weeks set new records for the number of campers. Overall, it was the third highest GBC five-week total in our history. With the addition of other churches using the facility the last five weeks of the summer, 1,266 campers and staff stayed at Camp Mantowagan. A total of 128 first-time decisions to follow Christ were recorded during these ten weeks!



Thank-you all, even if you helped only for an afternoon or a meal. I always say it takes a small army to run a camp. You were a part of that army if you prayed, gave financially, or served somewhere at camp. Thanks for being Kingdom builders!

**"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." ~ Jesus in John 16:33**

## The Counseling Team ~ Connie

Summer options for college students in our culture are vast in number. Consequently, many make the decision to counsel at the last moment. I believe God knows who He wants on staff, but it is a test of faith to wait patiently until He gives us that information! We had many counselors graduate from college the past several years, and sadly, they are no longer able to devote weeks of their summer to camp. This year the counseling staff was a younger group, but it was amazing to watch how God worked through them! The team God put together were awesome role models for campers. Again, I was blown away by the evidence of God being in control when we are not. The waiting is difficult, but the result is so worthwhile!



## Annual Fundraising Dinner

Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 30 at 6:00 pm.

Join us in the activity center of Grace Fellowship Church—Leamersville Campus (Leamersville GBC) in Duncansville. We will celebrate lives impacted, give toward the ministry at camp, and enjoy great food and fellowship! Sign up through a Grace Brethren church or contact the camp.



## 2017 Summer Camp Theme: THRIVE

Definition: "to grow and develop vigorously; flourish". Proverbs 11:28 says "Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf." Are you thriving? Are you growing and developing both physically AND spiritually? What does a thriving and successful life look like? The Bible can help answer these questions, and you'll learn the answers while having the time of your life at Camp Mantowagan! (Excerpt from the camp brochure)

**Quotable Quotes**

Wendy (Weber) Roush on Facebook — *I just drove through Saxton tonight. As I navigated those curves I thought about the camp bus. There were so many joyful trips with laughter and singing. I felt a sense of belonging which provided a strong foundation for me. I often catch myself singing those campfire songs. I am so thankful I had the privilege of being a camper! I hope that the hours people poured into me can be poured into others. Thank you Camp Mantowagan for being a gathering place to connect, learn, worship, encourage, challenge, but most importantly to point people to Christ.*



Email from a district pastor — *Just had the opportunity to talk with a 39 year old man (in troubled times) about Christ. I prayed with him to accept Christ just for assurance sake. But he had heard this message once before...while at Camp Mantowagan!*

*Great to be in the Lord's service! Thanks for your input in children's lives - because the seed is planted...they do grow up...and remember. "Your labor is not in vain."*

**...because the seed is planted**



The Scrapbooking Fundraiser Weekend raised \$2,626 for camp. Thanks to all the ladies and to Linda Johnson and Traci Rose for their great planning efforts!

**Facility and Financial Update ~ Lee**

The view from my desk as I type this update explodes with vibrant red, orange, and yellow leaves. A breeze brings the colors alive with movement and dozens of leaves fall past the window to the ground. Just a few short weeks ago this same view was overwhelmed with many shades of green. How fast the seasons change!



"Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will **THRIVE** like a green leaf"

Proverbs 11:28 (NIV)

The seasons of ministry at camp change just as fast with summer camps now turning to fall weekend retreats. What a blessing that our Provider stays the same through all of these earthly seasons! His provision has certainly been evident throughout 2017. Along with our district church's support and folks who give to the ministry on a monthly basis, many other gifts and donations have been received. Among those were gifts in memory of Al Gusler and Howard Long, a 2002 F150 pickup truck, an auger attachment for the skid loader, funds for camper scholarships, and gifts to be used for projects around the facility.



Numerous projects have been completed around the camp: a new commercial coffee maker and drink dispenser in the dining hall; new windows and door on the health center; new front doors on both bath houses; an automatic back-up generator for the gym/dining hall/kitchen complex; LED conversion for gym lights; new water heater, dishwasher, and refrigerator in the big kitchen. We took out the aging center island in the lodge kitchen and replaced it with stainless steel counters and sink, installed T1-11 on the walls of the gym stage area where the drywall was beat up, and installed acoustic panels on the dining hall ceiling to help make conversation easier. Many volunteers helped make this work happen. A big thank-you if you were a part of any of these or other projects! Thanks also to the folks who helped with clean-up after the big storm right before summer camp. Many hands made it happen!



**Get Involved**

We would love for YOU to get involved with the ministry at camp in some way. This year we had men's groups, Bible study groups, and individuals volunteer for work projects or summer camp needs. Contact us if you would like to help out in some way!

- 2017 Fall Camp Happenings**
- September:
  - 15-16 Puzzletown Road Bible Ladies
  - 20-22 Shalom Christian Academy Youth
  - 22-23 Martinsburg GBC Ladies
  - October:
  - 6-8 Hagerstown Bible Youth
  - 13-15 Kittanning GBC Families
  - 20-22 Scrapbooking Fundraising Ladies
  - 27-28 Martinsburg GBC Men
  - November:
  - 3-5 Harrisburg Community Alliance Men
  - 17-19 Valley View Evangelical Youth
  - 30 Annual Fundraising Dinner

If you would like to give toward the ministry you can give toward general ministry expenses, or check out the list of projects on our website for specific needs. Consider the camp ministry for legacy gifts. Your bequest, endowment, life insurance beneficiary, gift annuity, or other gift planning method can support the camp long after you are with our Savior. Above all, please pray for those who spend time at the camp. Pray that God will use the experience powerfully in their hearts and lives!



Please e-mail us at [gocampm@comcast.net](mailto:gocampm@comcast.net) if you would prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic format or would like to be removed from our mailing list.

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