



Fall 2023

MANTOWAGAN

Together at Camp ~ Lee

Welcome to our effort at providing a window into the profound power of the summer camp experience. If you have a few minutes, I encourage you to visit the photos section of our Facebook page, click on albums, and scroll through the Pioneer camp album from this summer. I promise that you'll be encouraged and uplifted by what you see! Now that you are back, wow, what a summer of camping ministry! Our theme this summer was Together, and from the first campfires where high school campers opened up about addiction and mental health, to the last staff debriefing when most of the counselors were teary eyed over the impact camp has had on their lives...it was so good being *together* at camp. Was it perfect? No, nothing this side of heaven is perfect. But, the meaningful and profound spiritual and relational moments far outweigh any frustration or difficulty. We saw a **record 662 campers** at our five weeks of camp, and **65 of them put their trust in Jesus** for the first time. Over 50 different young people served as counselors, and nearly 100 other folks volunteered in some capacity. God is good! We hope you are encouraged by your time spent reading this newsletter, and thanks for your part in making it possible!



"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:12b

Annual Fundraising Dinner
Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m.
Grace Fellowship Church Leamersville
14 Brethren Lane, Duncansville
Dinner is for adults only, is free,
and is made by Maddie Cakes.
RSVP to camp, or sign-up at your
district church by November 13.
HELP US BUILD THE CHAPEL!



Kitchen Crew ~ Rick

We enjoyed many delicious meals made from scratch this summer thanks to our wonderful cooks, helpers, dish washers, and dining room volunteers. Sherri Peeler made the meals for staff training days. We immensely enjoyed the surprise of French cuisine made by Sherri and her assistant, Valerie! The crepes and galette were delicious! Dean Pizer was head cook for the first three weeks and the turkey dinner with all the trimmings was always great.



It was a delight to have Don Rough in the kitchen with Dean! Marsha Fiscus brought a wonderful crew from Kittanning GBC for Pioneer week. Shelley McCall served the tasty meals for Explorer week with the help of volunteers from Martinsburg GBC. We came to the table with hearty appetites and appreciated caring cooks who went above and beyond! Campers and staff always comment on the great camp meals. Thanks to all who made that possible!



Thankful for Counselors ~ Connie

Together was the theme at camp this year and the group of counselors that God brought together was amazing! By mid-April most of the college-age staff were in place with only a few openings left for the dozens of high school applicants. We are truly blessed by campers wanting to give back by counseling. Their enthusiasm and engagement during counselor training was a joy. They were truly an amazing team!

Fun Facts:

- During our five weeks of GBC camps two of our five week counselors were engaged! Congratulations Taylor Nycum and Hannah Lingenfelter!
- Ten college-age counselors served all five weeks!
- 13 of the 25 college-age counselors have come to camp since 2nd grade, three since 3rd, and one since 4th!



College-age counselors in response to, "How has camp impacted you as a counselor and leader this summer?"

"Camp is my second home. I always leave here exhausted, but overflowing with joy, gratitude, and love for how God uses this place for incredible things."

"It allowed me to re-evaluate my life, what direction I should take, what friends I should have, and now I want to be involved in ministry."

"In amazing ways. It's hard to put into words how much heart change I've experienced. I feel so prepared to step further into leadership roles in ministry."

"It has made me look at life differently and remember how much I have to be thankful for."



"I would absolutely love the opportunity to come next summer and be a camp counselor. The bonds that I have made with campers have been absolutely incredible and the love that my counselors each year have had for each and every camper is so inspiring and I would love the opportunity to give the same kind of love and wisdom to a group of girls next summer."

~ Camper emailed wanting to give back!

"I will definitely be back next year to be a counselor again. Best experience of my life!"

~ High school counselor



Facility Update ~ Lee

Buildings, roads, water and waste systems, grass and trees...it all serves to provide a place for people to grow closer to their Creator and Savior. That is the point of having a *facility* in the first place! God has used so many in His kingdom to build this place and, if you are reading this, you likely play a part in continuing that work. Here are just a few of the ways that God has provided for Camp Mantowagan this year.

- A gift of \$9,000 allowed us to replace the aging furnace in the lobby/kitchen and add central air conditioning as well through a heat pump system.
- \$2,800 was given to purchase four more paddle boards to be used at the lake.
- Gifts totaling \$2,200 allowed us to repair the damage from a minor fire, and upgrade to a safer furnace, in a cabin this past winter. We are so thankful for God's protection!
- \$2,550 was given to purchase three smaller mountain bikes for our young campers.
- A team of guys replaced siding on the gable end of the gym at a work weekend in May, along with other jobs.
- Gifts helped us to replace the aging batteries on our electric utility cart with lithium batteries for longer run times.
- Gifts allowed us to purchase a digital piano for the dining hall, and install black lights (glow lights) in the gym.
- Memorial gifts were given in memory of Gail Keith, Paul Stern, Richard Loose, Ronald C. Foor, Tom McCreary, Audra Delozier, and Tom and Cindy Acker. What a legacy these folks helped shape for us today!
- It is impossible to list all of the gifts toward general expenses, but those gifts truly do keep the doors open and lights on for the thousands of lives impacted each year!
- The chapel building fund continued to grow throughout the year, but that growth has slowed somewhat. Exciting news though, we met with our architect last week and we are aimed at groundbreaking in 2024! Pray for provision as we take this step of faith, after all, God owns the cattle on a thousand hills!



2023 Fall Camp Happenings

September:

1-2 Puzzletown Bible Church Ladies
8-9 Martinsburg GBC Men
22-24 Martinsburg GBC Ladies
29-Oct. 1 Blessings Foster Care Ministry

October:

6-7 Martinsburg GBC Young Adults
13-15 Scrapbooking Fundraiser Weekend
20-22 Kittanning GBC Families
27-29 Bare Memorial Church Women

November:

10-12 Trinity Evangelical Youth
16—Annual fundraising dinner at 6:00pm
17-19 Community Alliance Men

2023 saw a record number of campers at our five weeks of district camp and retreats have been going strong. However, costs have also increased for everything from electricity to cleaning supplies. Your faithful support is what makes impacting lives at Camp Mantowagan possible. Thanks so much to all of you who help make it happen!

**Chapel building fund balance
as of 10/10: \$671,221**



Camp is in need of a new (to us) pickup truck. Donate your inspected truck and gain the value as a tax incentive!

Please e-mail us at
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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