

CAMP MANATAWNY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER SESSIONS RETURN, COUNTLESS HOURS, BLAST FROM THE PAST, BOARD CHANGES, APPRECIATION DAY & AWARDS, TRANSFORMING LIVES, INCREDIBLE SERVICE & GENEROSITY

Summer Sessions Return!

By Andy Mychajlowycz, Executive Director



After canceling our Summer Sessions last year for the first time in Camp's history, we were incredibly blessed to have Summer Sessions return in 2021! But the return of Summer overnight and day camp was not a matter of simply returning to "business as usual". Many challenges needed to be overcome, with support from an army of volunteers and Camp staff.

The greatest challenge was finding two Director Teams to lead our Senior High 2 and Junior High 1 weeks. Two couples stepped forward about two months before our Summer Sessions were set to begin: Brent and Danielle Gold to lead SH2 and Steve and Karen Brown to lead JH1,

Brent had been a member of SH2 week staff for many years and was well equipped to take on that challenge, with the essential partnership of his wife. Recruiting staff members, in particular counselors, was the biggest hurdle to clear. In the end, the vast majority of the volunteers to serve at SH2 week were first time workers for that week. And a great number of these were first timers to the Summer Session experience overall. [Continued on page 2]



Countless Hours

By Dave Smith, Chairman of the Board



The conclusion of the Summer Sessions affords us an opportunity to reflect on the effort it took to create memorable experiences for all who participated. This past Spring, Andy and the Board were faced with finding Directors for two of our seven overnight sessions. We were fortunate to have Brent & Danielle Gold and Steve & Karen Brown step up to fill the roles.

Upon taking the responsibility, both couples immersed themselves into the task of planning and staffing 50-60 volunteers for their week. Our Directors often rely on returning staff to fill the bulk of volunteer positions. In the case of Senior High 2, over 80% of the staff was going to be working the week for the first time.

Brent & Danielle spent *countless hours* writing emails, making phone calls and sending texts to prospective workers. They setup a large whiteboard in the middle of their living space and arranged all of the roles required on the whiteboard. They added names under the roles, using one color to signify confirmed staff and another color for tentative staff. With each confirmation, there was a celebration dance by Brent, because that put them one person closer to a full staff.

During every Zoom call I had with them, the whiteboard was in the background serving as a constant reminder [Continued on page 3]



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Summer Sessions Return [Continued from page 1]

Steve Brown, on the other hand, had a great love for Camp but had never worked at JH1 week other than helping with fishing! So, about 2 weeks after volunteering, the sheer magnitude of the challenge of directing a Camp week began to sink in and weigh heavily on Steve! But, with the help of Brooks, his son, Karen, his wife, and even Brent Gold, the JH1 Athletic Director - yes, back for another round as a tireless volunteer - and many other volunteers, the details of JH1 week fell into place.



In addition to finding two new Director Teams, we also faced critical staff shortages. Patrick Damato, our Camp Food Service Manager, needed to resign due to a serious medical condition, leaving us without

someone to oversee meals and food ordering a month before the start of Summer Sessions. So, a scramble to find replacement head cooks for some weeks became a top priority. In addition, we were short of nurses, Bible teachers, counselors and volunteers for many other key positions. With intense prayer, a multitude of telephone calls, and appealing across our network of volunteers in the Camp community, gradually all of these challenges were overcome.

We had 388 volunteers come forward, many serving for the first time, to cover all our staffing needs. Some cooks and nurses volunteered to work multiple weeks. In total, 71 volunteers worked more than 1 week, 25 worked 3 or more weeks, 14 worked 4 or more weeks, and 1 worked 5 full weeks! Many of these volunteers served tirelessly, sustained by the Lord and by their collective desire to demonstrate the love of Jesus to the campers!



Above all of these staffing challenges was the shadow of Covid-19. After preparing a set of Covid-19 protocols based on the requirements of the state and county health authorities, we constantly adapted them as the requirements changed. We hosted our large group activities outdoors or in open air facilities, and our small group / intimate activities in camper cohorts. In the end, we had one confirmed case of Covid-19 during our Summer Camp weeks, forcing us to dismiss a cabin of boys a day early, and several reported in the weeks following a Camp week. We followed Health Authority reporting and contact tracing procedures and were praised by the various health departments with whom we had interactions. Thankfully, no serious Covid-19 outcomes were reported..

Overall, we had an incredible Summer Camp experience! Our new Day Camp program broke all previous records, with 109 campers attending. Our Overnight campers were spiritually enriched, with several putting on Christ in baptism. Our volunteer staffers were exhausted while being energized by the strength that only God can supply. The Lord was honored and glorified through our collective experiences. And each of us experienced the joy, peace and comfort of God's kingdom, here on earth, while staying and serving at Camp Manatawny!

Countless Hours [Continued from page 1]

of the progress and the ongoing needs. As the staff was coming together, the detailed plans for the week needed to be ironed out and, in addition, the paperwork for the confirmed staff needed to be completed. Again, countless hours went into the preparation.

A person may ask, why invest *countless hours* for one week? Here's a few reasons to consider. The first, is for the Campers. To have seen them laugh and play and experience all of the activities that Camp Manatawny has to offer made for lasting memories. Tied to that is the second reason for the countless hours. The opportunity to be with Christians is time well spent. While visiting the Director one evening, a young man came up to us to ask to call his Dad. He wanted to ask permission to be baptized at Camp! What a joyful moment that was! Another reason is revealed on the final day of Camp at the closing ceremonies. We saw the Campers thank their Counselors for the wonderful week. We witnessed parents thank the staff for taking good care of their children. Finally, we saw the Director Teams smile and realize that this is what makes the *countless hours* worthwhile!

To God be the Glory!

What, No Swimming?

By Cheryl Snyder, Board Secretary



Back in the early days of Camp Manatawny, in the late 1960's, Camp did not have a pool. Even worse, the Manatawny Creek was polluted and was off-limits.

One very hot day, a group of girls and their counselor were tired of the heat and decided to pile in the counselor's car and head to a local public pool. Janet Edwards, the counselor, took off with about 5 or 6 teen-aged girls, to find a place to cool off. Janet knew that Upper Perkiomenville Park had a pool, but when they arrived, the park was closed!

They didn't get to swim that day, but they certainly had an adventure! One of those teenage campers, Donna (Garrett) Lawson, remembers this adventure as "driving around the neighborhoods to find a pool to use!"

Janet recalls that that group of girls was always up to pranks and fun stuff, so she was always looking for ways to keep them safe and under control and yet let them have fun.

Enjoy these photos of the first pool that was built a few years later (early 1970's), another early photo of the pool when it had a diving board, and some fun times with inner tubes once the creek was safe to use.



The first pool, built in 1974



Fun in the pool after diving board was added



Fun in the Creek

Staff Appreciation Day and Awards Dinner

We have a Camp tradition to thank the Director Teams at the conclusion of our Summer Sessions each year at a dinner in their honor. At that dinner, we also typically present several award recipients with plaques recognizing them for exceptional sacrifice and service to Camp. This year, we decided to expand this tradition by setting aside an entire Day for this purpose.

So, on August 28, all Volunteer Staff members were invited to attend Staff Appreciation Day and have fun at Camp WITHOUT WORKING. A barbecue lunch was prepared and served by the Board of Directors. Family members were also welcome.

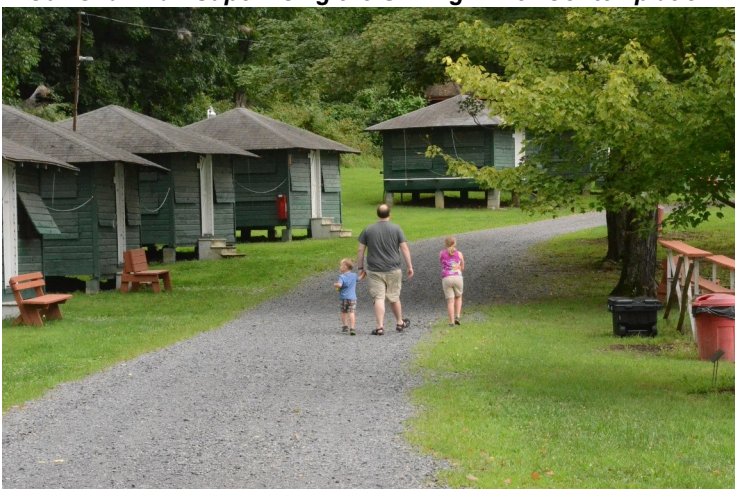
In the evening, an awards dinner was held to thank the Summer Session Director Teams, other critical volunteer staffers, Camp employees, representatives from Sponsoring Churches, and long-time members of the Camp community. A number of awards were presented. At the conclusion, we had an opportunity to honor Dave and Brenda Garrett for their lifetimes of dedication to the mission of Camp, following Dave's retirement from full-time Camp employment in October 2020.



Our Chairman Supervising the Grilling... with Contemplation



Yes! It's Canteen Time!



A Dad and His Kids at Camp - Priceless!



Honoring Dave Garrett for a Lifetime of Service

Staff Appreciation Day and Awards Dinner [Continued from page 4]

Green Rock Award

Awarded to the Summer Session Week with the greatest number of campers registered

Recipients: **Intermediate Week Directors Team**
Jonathan Woodall
Haley Woodall
Jodi Fox

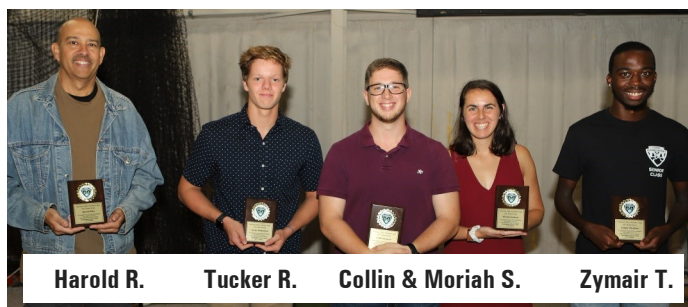


Andrew Cooper Jodi Fox Hayley & Jonathan Woodall

Board Award

In recognition of your tireless dedication and faithful service to Camp Manatawny and to its mission...
Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Recipients: **Stacy Drum** **Jackson Kulp**
Harold Riley **Collin Swenson**
Moriah McIntyre **Moriah Swenson**
Tucker Rutherford **Sasha Lewis**
Jake Shirey **Zymair Thedford**



Harold R. Tucker R. Collin & Moriah S. Zymair T.

Reflecting Jesus Award

In recognition of your active service, where there is a need.
Jesus stopped and called them, saying,
"What do you want me to do for you?"
 - Matthew 20:32

Recipients: **Naomi Watson**
Jeff Werkheiser



Naomi W. Andy M.

Mark Niehls Jeff W.

Above and Beyond Award

In recognition of your willingness to go above and beyond through your personal sacrifice, sleepless nights, patient endurance, Godly humility, and timely service to Camp Manatawny and to its mission...
Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Recipients: **Brent and Danielle Gold**
Steve and Karen Brown



Brent & Danielle Gold

Steve & Karen Brown

Award for Lifetime of Service

In recognition of...
 your obedience to our Lord,
 your humility before others,
 your sacrifice to those in need,
 your focus on the path God has laid out for you, and
 your love for the precious little ones,
 we extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to you for your lifetime of service to Camp Manatawny and to its mission...
Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Recipients: **Dave and Brenda Garrett**



Jim Bailey Dave & Brenda Garrett Andy M.

New Board Members

At the board meeting on June 22, four additional board members were appointed to interim terms on the board. They will be on the ballot to serve full terms at the normal board election by Camp members in April 2022.



Jay Corbett

Jay has served at Camp since 1980, working as a counselor, Bible teacher, and running the canteen. Jay has also been a regular worker at Camp work days, especially during the "big dig" projects during the last 3 years, and helps regularly in the kitchen with Camp rental groups.

Jay is a member of the Camp Hill Church of Christ since 1978 where he has been a teacher for many years.



Justin Henderson

Justin is from New Jersey. He went to Penn State for undergrad and Northwestern for graduate school. He has gone to camp his whole life and has served as a staff member for 16 years, mostly as Athletic Director and Counselor for Intermediate week, but also in various roles at Elementary 2

week in the past.

Justin has been a member at the Collingswood Church of Christ as long as he can remember.



Danielle Gold

Danielle was raised in the Philadelphia area and grew up attending Manatawny with her family from infancy. Most recently, Danielle and her husband, Brent, were interim directors for Senior High 2 week for the 2021 Camp season. In the past, she has been a cook, a counselor, an athletics director and also served in other roles.

During the hard COVID season, the Golds started to attend Conestoga Valley Church of Christ in Lancaster and they look forward to planting roots and getting more involved in their new church home. Danielle holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and currently counsels in a local school helping kids with trauma.



Harold Riley

Harold has been volunteering for summer camp sessions since 2007, ten years as a boy's counselor and, more recently, as a Bible teacher and member of the kitchen staff. Harold has also helped at other Camp Manatawny events and with rental groups.

Harold and his family attended the Randolph Church of Christ in New Jersey, and then the Lehigh Valley Church of Christ for 22 years in Bethlehem, PA. At Lehigh, Harold led the worship, technology and website committees. After a recent relocation, the Riley family are now members at the Chesmont Church of Christ.

Board and Staff Departures

Andrew Cooper - In March, Andrew Cooper, long-time Board member and, most recently, Chairman of the Board, stepped down. The Board selected Dave Smith as our new Chairman. During Andrew's time on the Board, he was instrumental in launching the Capital Campaign at Camp's 50th Anniversary Celebration, which focused, during the first phase, on retiring our debt (accomplished in 2019!) and, during the current phase, on constructing new cabins to replace our 80+ year old green cabins over the next few years. Andrew also helped the Board to focus on Camp's vision, values and long-term planning, on fiscal discipline, and on a resolute commitment to transforming the lives of our campers through Camp's programs and resources. We thank Andrew for his leadership and service!

Patrick Damato - In June, Patrick Damato, our recent Food Service Director, resigned from his position for medical reasons. During the summer sessions, Patrick continued to help with our weekly food orders, and, during the fall, assisted with the planning of a number of rental group events. Patrick was instrumental in helping us focus on hospitality. In winter 2020 and winter 2021, Patrick also visited 300+ communities of faith within Camp's immediate vicinity, dropped off posters and pamphlets, delivered fresh-baked cookies, and invited them to partner with Camp and send their children to our Summer Sessions. His jovial spirit and dedication will be missed.

Transforming Lives

The young boy had suffered so much – family turmoil that included substance abuse, infidelity, divorce, death, family separation and relocation to another state, and school disruption. He was hardened and so angry. Yet he needed to go to Urgent Care for a strept throat test to be sure he was able to remain at camp among the other campers. The test came back negative. He joined in again with the other campers, sometimes acting up and not always getting along well with others.

That evening's game was going well until another camper's elbow struck his face, bloodying his nose and sending him to the ground. Nurses responded with first aid, but the injury bought him a trip to the emergency department in an ambulance where his neck could be properly supported until he could receive a neurological evaluation. He was terrified of the ambulance and protested getting into it, to the point of object refusal. His camp counselor had been talking with him earlier and now agreed to accompany him in the ambulance, along with the camp director following behind in his private car.

As the ambulance made its way down the camp road, all the other campers had suspended their game and formed a huge circle near the drive, heads bowed in prayer for God's mercy on the boy (photo below). A few hours later, he returned with no evidence of head or neck injury. During this same week, at the last moment, a trained pediatric trauma counselor was volunteering in the kitchen. She spoke not only with the boy who had been hit, but with the boy whose elbow had hit him and who felt terrible about the accident.

By the end of the week, the angry boy who had experienced so much decided to follow Jesus and was baptized. His guardian was notified and attended the event along with the entire camp family. The ups and downs of the week were all used by God to bring another soul to himself.



Incredible Service

Once again, a group of Sojourners spent 2 weeks working at Camp (from August 27 to September 9) helping complete many projects, including staining, painting, and repairs, all across Camp. We were not only blessed by the work of their hands but also by their encouraging company at devotionals and meals!

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord" - Colossians 3:23



Incredible Generosity

After many years of service, Camp's Kubota tractor finally experienced a failure that would cost a great deal to repair. While we carefully considered what to do, a long-time member of the Camp community stepped forward and donated \$20,000 toward a new tractor. After selling the Kubota to another member of the Camp community, who could repair it himself, we had enough money to buy a new, more capable Kioti tractor which can handle all Camp tasks, including pulling our new wagon!



Summer Sessions Photos

7 Summer Sessions + 602 Campers (109 Day Campers, 493 Overnight Campers) + 388 Volunteers + 442 Weeks Volunteered + 199 First-Time Campers + 20+ Sponsoring Congregations + 46 Financial Aid Recipients + Friendships + Bible Classes + Crafts + Athletics + Bottle Rockets + Nine Square + Canteen Time + Worship + Devotionals + Camp Fires + Baptisms + Swimming + Creek Walks + Horseback Rides + Covid-19 Protocols + The Love of God = Heaven on Earth !!



Summer Sessions Photos



Winter 2021-2022 Promotion

Group Gathering

Youth Group Weekend

Ladies' Retreat

Winter Retreat

Family Reunion

Hold a church / group event at Camp from Nov 2021 to Feb 2022

Garrett Hall 40% off, Lodging 40% off, Food 10% off

Email rentals@manatawny.org or call (610) 707-DVCC [3822]



Retreat program, 3 nights lodging & 9 meals only \$99

Winter Retreat

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EARN

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RANSFORM

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PLIFT

for college-aged young adults and high school seniors

December 29, 2021 – January 1, 2022