

# CAMP MANATAWNY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER SESSIONS A SUCCESS, STATE OF CAMP, BLAST FROM THE PAST, BOARD DEPARTURE, APPRECIATION DAY & AWARDS, ANNUAL GIVING, FALL EVENTS

## Summer Sessions Return To Normal Level Post Covid!

*By Andy Mychajlowycz, Executive Director*



We had a full year of Summer Camp in 2021 with a very popular Day Camp and a well attended Overnight Camp, with heavy Covid-19 PA State health department restrictions, led by cohorting, but in 2022 our summer program returned to a normal pre-Covid level, reaching 681 kids (we averaged 674 in the 5 years before the Covid-19 pause) and over 500 volunteer staff weeks! The vast majority of PA State health department restrictions were lifted, the Day Camp program was fully integrated with the Overnight program, and cohorting became a thing of the past. Unfortunately, we did face a larger number of positive Covid-19 test cases than in 2021, with campers and staff forced to go home early, but all reported positive test cases were either mild or asymptomatic. I expect that next year we will have no Covid-19 restrictions from the PA State health department and Covid-19 will be treated like any other endemic virus or disease that we have faced at Camp over the past 50+ years.

We had more financial aid applicant this year (over \$15,000 awarded in Campships), because we never want [Continued on page 2]



## A Look Back on Our 2022 Summer Sessions

*By Dave Smith, Chairman of the Board*



Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

The Summer of 2022 has gone down into the books as one to remember! The Camp's 450 volunteers served a total of 681 Campers! Of that number, 600 were overnight Campers. We ended the Summer very close to our pre-covid levels of 700+ Campers. If my math is correct, that translates into about 3,000 meals served by our kitchen staff each week!

The list of activities that the Campers experienced is incredibly long! Here's just a few: Swimming, Athletics, Knocker Soccer, Night-time Capture the Flag, Water Slide, Bouncy House, Escape Room, Staff Spectacular, Bible Buzzer, Theme Dinners, Circus Night, Flour Wars, Water Balloon Fights, Foam Machine, Creek Walk, Horses, Archery, Bottle Rockets and the list goes on! It's amazing how many activities can fit into one week of camp!

We continue to be, so far, financially strong (except for our cost of utilities and fuel, which continue to dramatically increase due to the rise in inflation). This is due, in no small part, to your incredible generosity.

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## Summer Sessions Return To Normal Level Post Covid! [Continued from page 1]

Finances to be a reason for families not sending their kids to Camp, and because of the great generosity of our Camp community, hopefully we will be able to keep doing so for many years! We continued to be the most cost effective Camp in the area (averaging a cost of \$244.69 paid by Camper families for our overnight program).

Our top three reasons for having a popular camp program (based on an informal survey taken of camper families) were our meals (much more expensive this year because of the rise in food prices due to inflation), our Bible-centric program, and our offered daily activities (abundant and exhausting).

Demostrated by our many baptisms (at least 9 definite but many more unconfirmed) and the dozen Day Camp program converts to our Overnight program during the middle of many Summer weeks, Camp Manatawny continues to be a very popular and spiritual program where the Christ-centered love of Christ is exemplified by our sincere and passionate volunteer staffers!

This year Camp's Summer program continued to have more Church of Christ kids (almost 40%) than from any other faith community, but 42 other communities of faith were represented and a large increase in attendees from local congregations continued, making Camp's focus on these 300+ local churches hugely successful, and nearly 14% of our campers came from families that were largely unchurched.

We also strengthened our affiliation with partner organizations, with over 20 sponsoring congregations included (those that offered sponsorship codes and paid for congregation members and guests) and 114 partner codes used by our camper families that offered a \$50 discount from local Christian schools, Christian community groups like Project Purpose, and a new camp consolidation and referral site from the New York city area.

All of this would not be possible if it weren't for our many tireless volunteer staffers that serve as directors, co-directors, head chefs and kitchen workers, dining hall workers, dish and pot washers, nurses, certified lifeguards, athletic directors, climbing wall instructros, archery and riflery instructors, Bible class and devotional instructors, office men and ladies, canteen staffers, Day Camp sign-in and sign-out people, hay ride tractor drivers, maintenance workers, counselors and co-counselors, and many more that make other Camp directors intensely longing to have such a passionate and successful summer program. We can't explain your incredible generosity and spirit to make all of this possible, and we simply want to say thank you for helping all of us to Transform Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!



## A Look Back on Our 2022 Summer Sessions [Continued from page 1]

Thank you to all of the Director Teams and Staff that worked so hard to make Camp a positive experience for so many Campers! A key part of Camp Manatawny is that we provide about 3-4 hours for Bible Study, Singing and Devotionals every day!

For the first time in 10 years the registration fees increased in order to keep up with the rising costs of food and inflation. We still offer Campships and discounts. For this year, we provided 60 Campships, 200 discounts for first timers and 50 large family discounts. A closer look at the numbers reveals that we have over 400 Campers returning to Camp each year!

Camp is already preparing for the next Summer's sessions. During September, a group of Sojourners spent two weeks fixing up Camp. Their largest project this year was the resurfacing of the Bailey Dining Hall tables! Thank you Sojourners!

### Dress Code

*By Andy Mychajlowycz, Executive Director*



Back in the early days of Camp Manatawny, we established a dress code to promote modesty and Christian values. Today we continue this tradition and set Camp Manatawny apart from other youth and Christian camps in the area, but it's not easy. Our campers, both boys and girls, must adhere to this dress code in a culture, all around us, that accepts much less modest clothing than many years ago. The constant struggle to buy and pack appropriate clothing for a week at Camp is becoming more complicated. While male camper clothing has become longer in short's length (low riders and very long bicycle shorts), how do we handle cut-off shirts, t-shirts without arms, or shirts with large cutouts?

And it's even more complicated for girl camper clothing, which stretches (quite literally) from ultra skimpy fashion, to short shorts and even bikini tops. Some modest fashion is not even available in the typical clothing store, department store or even at your Walmart



*Typical clothing seen at Camp in the early days*



Super store. And we are surrounded in the female camper space with hyper-sexuality and body shaming (we take this very seriously). What does modesty even mean anymore?

To top all this off, even after revising the dress code policy every two or three years (we are currently doing this via a Board committee led by Allyson Gladfelter and Kathy Ashton) and adding pictures, we are faced with the constant challenge of consistently administering and enforcing our dress code across every Summer Session week filled with campers from unchurched families and those from other faith traditions. Do we have certain standards for our male and female dress code enforcers? Must our dress code enforcers (typically head male and female counselors, assistant directors or weekly directors) be a certain age? Must they be parents of children? Must they go through special training classes? Should they be fixed staff positions or can they be longtime volunteer staffers?

We all long for past days when life at Camp was simpler and wearing dresses and modest clothing was common and not ridiculed so the focus could be on God and the love of Christ.

## Staff Appreciation Day and Awards Dinner

For many years we have repeated a Camp tradition to thank the Director Teams at the conclusion of our Summer Sessions each year at a dinner in their honor. In recent years this was held at an area restaurant with a small number of people invited. But last year we started a new Camp tradition—having a Staff Appreciation Day to say thank you to all our volunteer staffers who served in our Summer program—and we repeated that tradition on September 3 this year. Volunteer Staff members were invited to attend a day at Camp from 10 am to 4 pm. A free lunch was prepared by our Camp cook, with Board Members grilling some items. The Camp facilities were open, including the canteen, basketball and volley ball courts, the gaga pit, and some swim time in the pool, all to be enjoyed by Volunteer Staff members and their families, to have fun at Camp WITHOUT WORKING.

At 4 pm we had a tour of the new things at Camp (refinished floor, screens, projector, and repairs in Garrett Hall; new range, griddle, landing pad, and reach-in refrigerator in Bailey Dining Hall; new projector in the Multipurpose Building [3 new doors and a screen coming soon]; our new Kioti tractor [donated in 2021] and new hay wagon). We also dedicated the renovated Cook's Cabin in honor of Carol Bailey and renovated and moved Girl's Cabin 14 in honor of Donna Garrett. Both Carol and Donna were longtime volunteers at Camp and recently passed away.

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.



### Green Rock Award

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

Recipients: **Junior High 1 Week Directors Team**  
**Rebekah Lazar Elizabeth Lazar**

### 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: **Cheryl Snyder Ashley May**  
**Gerald Harrill Inez Harrill**

### 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: **Kenny Johnson**

### 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: **Thea Winter, Camp Head Nurse**  
**Bev Niehls, Camp Head Doctor**



Dave Smith, Rebekah & Elizabeth Lazar



David Snyder & Dave Smith



Ashley May & Dave Smith



Inez Harrill, Gerald Harrill & Dave Smith



Kenny Johnson & Andy Mychajlowycz



Thea Winter, Andy Mychajlowycz & Bev Niehls

## Board Departures and New Nominations; Staff Arrivals

At the end of 2021, Cheryl Snyder, the longtime Secretary of the Board and longest serving Board member, stepped down. Cheryl and her husband, David, moved to Oklahoma after serving as Secretary of the Shillington Church of Christ. The new Board secretary, Danielle Gold, was elected by the other Board members. We thank Cheryl for her many years of service and wish Danielle much success in her new responsibilities.

Bill Baird joined the Camp staff on July 11, 2022, as our Food Service Manager and head chef, working full-time from April to October (particularly in cooking for rental groups and for Camp events in the Spring and Fall, in assisting our Summer head cooks and ordering



*Cheryl Snyder*



*Danielle Gold*



*Bill Baird*

food) and hourly (when needed) cooking for our rental groups and for Camp events at other times. Bill comes to us as a highly skilled chef having a culinary school degree and past experience working at Camp while operating his catering business.

## 2023 Men's Retreat



# PROTECT THIS HOUSE

'Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other...' Nehemiah 4:17

**2022 Camp Manatawny Men's Retreat**  
September 23-24, 2022  
Register at [manatawny.org](http://manatawny.org)



**Eric Williamson**  
Family Based Therapist

## End-of-Year Giving Donations

At the end of 2021, we collected special donations starting with Giving Tuesday throughout the month of December. During this End of Year giving drive, we focused on 3 key things:

1. Renovations and Repairs to Garrett Hall - targeting \$14,000 in giving toward
  - refinishing and varnishing the floor (after nearly 13 years), 2 new screens, a projector, and repairs/staining of the exterior;
2. Renovations and New Appliances for the Bailey Kitchen and Dining Hall - targeting \$17,500 toward
  - a new range, a new griddle, a landing pad, a new reach-in refrigerator, floor repairs, and \$5,000 toward the kitchen roof;
3. Renovations and Repairs to the Multipurpose Building - targeting \$12,500 toward
  - a new projector, a new screen, seal the roof, and 3 new doors, .

As the donations began to roll in, our needs and expectations were exceedingly challenged. God continued to demonstrate His incredible generosity as we continued to pray and demonstrate our faith. And once again the Camp community members continued to surprise us. During this difficult financial period as people were recovering from the Covid-19 virus and from a downturn in the economy and job market the incredible generosity of the Camp community members continued to be demonstrated. We were hoping to reach our End of Year goal of \$44,000. Instead, the giving to the three renovation categories exceeded \$53,000 dollars. We first contracted a company to professionally do the floor (approaching the 25th Anniversary of the building). Then we ordered the screens for Garrett Hall, bought a new range, griddle and reach-in refrigerator. We fixed the Garrett Hall exterior walls, we ordered the projectors (used) for Garrett Hall and the Multipurpose Building, we ordered the screen and the 3 doors for the Multipurpose building, and we moved \$5,000 to the road and roof fund for the Kitchen/Dining Hall roof. Of course, our doors and screen have been back-ordered for several months, but that's a small problem to have. In fact, we even planned to use the approximate \$10,000 dollars given for Garrett Hall to purchase new chairs, but we got a recent donation of used chairs that has allowed the purchase of new chairs to be delayed and to use the Garrett Hall extra donation of about \$10,000 toward the repair of Garrett Hall roof due to the very strong winds we experience on that side of Camp.



God is good, all the time, and we continue to be thankful to Him and to you for the incredible generosity that continues to bless camper lives. To God be the glory!

## Sojourner Work 2022



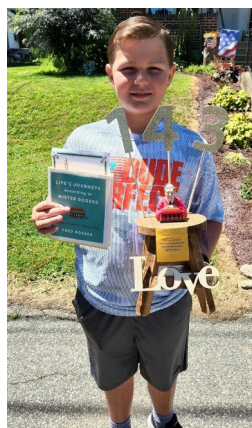
The Sojourners (a group of retired Christians) came to Camp once again in their RVs to spend 2 weeks volunteer working (from August 26 to September 8) helping complete many projects. They worked to resurface the Bailey Dining Hall tables (to go along with the beautiful new benches) and to stain, paint, and repair things all across Camp. We thank them for their incredible effort and their giving attitude!



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

# Summer Sessions Photos

7 Summer Sessions + 681 Campers (83 Day Campers, 598 Overnight Campers) + 453 Volunteers + 500 Weeks Volunteered + 187 First-Time Campers + 20+ Sponsoring Congregations + 59 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 Cases + The Love of God = Heaven on Earth !!



# Summer Sessions Photos





## Summer Sessions Photos



## Tentative Spring and Summer 2023 Schedule

### Spring Camp Events

- Early Registration #1 (Free T-Shirt) - Mar 31**
- Kitchen Work Day - Mar 31-Apr 1**
- Work & Worship Weekend - Apr 14-16**
- Jr/Sr High Retreat (Spring) - Apr 21-22**
- Worship & Meal - Apr 23 (4:30 pm to 6:30 pm)**
- Annual Corp Mtg - Apr 23 (6:30 pm to 8 pm)**
- Ladies Retreat - Apr 28-29**
- Early Registration #2 (\$26 off) - Apr 30**
- Church Leaders Workshop - May 18-20**
- Family Camp - May 26-29**
- Camp Sonshine - June 3-4**

### Summer Overnight Camp

- SH2 (grades 11 & 12) - Jun 24-Jul 1**
- SH1 (grades 9 & 10) - Jul 1-8**
- JH2 (grades 7,8, & 9) - Jul 8-15**
- JH1 (grades 5, 6 & 7) - Jul 15-22**
- INT (grades 4, 5 & 6) - Jul 22-29**
- E2 (grades 3 & 4) - Jul 29-Aug 5**
- E1 (grades 1 & 2) - Aug 5-12**

### Summer Day Camp

- JH1 (grades 3-6) - Jul 17-21**
- INT (grades 3-6) - Jul 24-28**
- E2 (grades 2-5) - Jul 31-Aug 4**
- E1 (grades 1-4) - Aug 7-11**

*Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!*

By Faith...

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.”  
-Hebrews 11: 1-2 NIV

Hello all 7<sup>th</sup> Graders through Seniors!  
Please come and join us at Camp Manatawny for the

Retreat Director:  
Stephen Tupitza



# Junior/Senior High Retreat

October 28-29



# Manatawny Fun Run

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> (9 AM)



# Winter 2022-2023 Promotion

*Group Gathering*

*Youth Group Weekend*

*Ladies' Retreat*

*Winter Retreat*

*Family Reunion*



Hold a church / group event at Camp from Nov 2022 to Feb 2023

**Garrett Hall 50% off, Lodging 40% off, Food 10% off**

Email [rentals@manatawny.org](mailto:rentals@manatawny.org) or call (610) 707-DVCC [3822] to see if you qualify and for more information.

*Retreat program, 3 nights lodging & 9 meals only ~~\$99~~ \$79*



## Winter Retreat

**L**earn

**F**ortify  
Inspire

**T**ransform

**U**plift

*for college-aged young adults and high school seniors*

**December 29, 2022 – January 1, 2023**

## Registration Sunday

In 2023, Summer Camp registration will begin on Sunday, January 15, 2023—Registration Sunday. Anyone registering for Overnight Camp and paying in full by March 31, 2023, will get \$26 off their registration and a free 2023 Camp t-shirt. There will also be Camp registration presentations during class or sermon time in March and April 2023, at various congregations throughout the area and Camp calendars and brochures will be handed out. If you have leadership responsibility at your congregation and would like a Board officer or other person on Camp Manatawny staff to present at your congregation during March or April, 2023, please send an email to [info@manatawny.org](mailto:info@manatawny.org).



Registration  
Sunday Coming  
January 15, 2023

