

CAMP MANATAWNY NEWSLETTER

2023 SUMMER SESSIONS, CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS, FIRST NEW CABIN STARTS, NEW BOARD MEMBERS, NEW ROOFS, WHAT MAKES CAMP SPECIAL, HELP WANTED, 2024 NEW EVENTS, SOJOURNERS

Recap of Summer 2023

By Andy Mychajlowycz,, Executive Director



Thanks to all your prayers, efforts and generous giving, the Lord blessed us tremendously during the 2023 Summer Season. We had 700 registrations in our Overnight and Day Camp programs and nearly 500 volunteer staff, returning to levels we haven't seen for years. In fact, we had 155 Campers during Junior High 2 Week, a number we haven't had for years. God continues to bless our numbers as we continue to Transform Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Two of our director teams were new this season—Allison Gladfelter and Derek Garrett for Junior High 2 Week, and Chris and Stacey Lewis for Elementary 1 Week, and many volunteer staff members were also new. We continue to receive God's multi-generational blessings of people coming as campers and continuing as staff members and even Directors and Board Members! In fact, we have some families who continue to be devoted to Camp into their family's fifth generation.

We had 28 Baptisms at Camp this summer and several more at local congregations on the following Sunday. We also had 187 first-time campers.

Camp awarded over \$16,000 in Campships toward Summer Camp in 2023 to 51 large, multi-child families, and to 59 families requiring financial assistance. All of this would not have been possible without your very generous financial support. In fact, our Summer Camp program cost over \$150,000 more than the income from Summer camper registration fees. This was subsidized by your donations and by the surplus we got from other Camp event registrations and renting to churches, schools, families, and other groups.



During our 2023 Summer Sessions, we continued to have great food, Bible classes, memory work, worship, devotionals, Bible buzzer competitions, swimming, creek walks, hiking, fishing, riflery, archery, horseback riding, zip lining, frisbee golf, athletics, hikes, bottle rockets, talent shows, obstacle courses, and much more.

[continued on page 2]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Giving Tuesday & End-of-Year Giving

From Nov 28, 2023 To Dec 31, 2023

Winter 2023-24 Rental Promotion

for college-aged young adults and high school seniors

LIFETU Winter Retreat
Dec 29, 2023 to Jan 1, 2024



Camp Manatawny, 33 Camp Road, Douglassville, PA 19518
Telephone: (610)-707-2267 [DVCC]
Camp website: www.manatawny.org

www.facebook.com/Manatawny/
www.instagram.com/campmanatawny/
twitter.com/campmanatawny



Recap of Summer 2023 [continued from page 1]

When we conducted an informal survey of about 100 camper families, they gave the following three as their favorite things about Summer Camp:

- the quality and selection of the food;
- the overall intensity of the program (exhausting and filled with great activities); and,
- the spirituality of all things at Camp (how it's worked into everything that we do).



These three were mentioned above and beyond everything else. A far distant fourth and fifth were swimming and climbing wall activities! I was surprised and encouraged.

As we move forward, please remember the special nature of Camp Manatawny. One of our summer interns this year referred to it as her "happy place" and one of our Board Members called it a "little slice of heaven". You make it those things by showing the love of Christ to the kids the Lord has placed in our care!



Chairman's Thoughts—Thanks to all the Volunteers

By Dave Smith, Chairman of the Board



Thank You Volunteers! (All 483 of you)

The Camp Board and Staff share our heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering dedication, boundless enthusiasm, and selfless service you've poured into making the Summer of 2023 at Camp Manatawny an extraordinary haven of love, faith, and transformation.

As we reflect on the remarkable journey that began in the hearts of visionaries like Jerry and Jean Reynolds, and Don and Ruth Garrett back in 1966, we're reminded of the deep roots from which our camp has grown. Their dreams, their faith, and their love for Christ set the foundation upon which we stand today, celebrating a legacy that continues to touch lives and shape destinies.

The Summer of 2023 marked an incredible chapter in our camp's story. With 700 campers hailing from 12 different states, the impact of your collective efforts radiated far beyond the borders of Camp Manatawny. We had Campers from as far as Louisiana & Tennessee and 483 volunteers from as far as Switzerland & Sweden. Among these campers, 650 were there for overnight experience, while 50 joined us for day adventures, all of them united by the spirit of camaraderie, joy, and the pursuit of Christ's teachings.

Our campers' journey was adorned with a plethora of activities that sparked laughter, built friendships, and kindled their connection with God. The list of activities – from swimming and athletics to the thrilling Night-time Capture the Flag, the exhilarating Water Slide, the whimsical Bouncy House, and the mind-bending Escape Room – is a testament to the breadth of experiences you've crafted for our young adventurers. And the list continues, winding through Bible Buzzer, Theme Dinners, Flour Wars, Water Balloon Fights, rambunctious Creek Walks, exciting encounters with Horses, precision in Archery, and even reaching for the stars with Bottle Rockets. The astonishing spectrum of activities you've woven into a single week of camp showcases your dedication to providing an experience that's both abundant and, I dare say, exhaustively joyful.

Amidst this joyful whirlwind, the threads of faith were never forgotten. The dedication that led to 28 baptisms speaks volumes about the spiritual impact you've facilitated. Camp Manatawny is not just a place for fun; it's a sanctuary where the love of Christ is illuminated through your genuine, passionate service.

Beyond the bounds of our camp, the connections you've cultivated with over 20 sponsoring congregations speak of the broader commu-

[continued on page 3]

New Board Members

Several months ago, the Board invited 7 individuals to attend Board Meetings and participate in organizing various Camp activities. The Board got to test and experience these 7 individuals and they got to experience what a Board position at Camp would involve. After this trial period, the existing Board Members voted to appoint these 7 individuals as Board Members for the remainder of the period until April 2024.. In April, at our Annual Meeting, they will all face election to the Board by the members of the Camp community to a full term. I am very glad to introduce our new Board Members to you:



Nawanna Ceraso



Dan Cooper



Stacy Drum



Bill Garrett



Adam Markel



Zach Sizemore



Jonathan Woodall

*Transforming Lives
for Christ
for a Lifetime!*

Chairman's Thoughts [continued from page 2]

nity of faith you've nurtured. The partnerships you've solidified reflect the ripple effect of your devotion – a devotion that extends far beyond the camp's physical borders.

Now, it's crucial to acknowledge the challenges. The rising tide of inflation has cast shadows on our financial landscape, impacting food, utilities and fuel costs. Yet, your unwavering commitment has kept us not just afloat, but thriving. Your generosity, your sacrifice, your willingness to put the needs of others before your own – these are the pillars that uphold the strength and continuity of our beloved Camp Manatawny.

And to the parents who've entrusted us with their children, your words resonate deeply within our hearts. Your testimonies reflect the impact we aspire to create – instilling faith, forging relationships, and nurturing young souls to walk hand-in-hand with God.

So, to all our directors, co-directors, head cooks, kitchen workers, lifeguards, bible teachers, counselors, office staff, and every single one of you who've lent your time, skills, and heart, we thank you. Your labor of love doesn't just create Summers of cherished memories; it shapes lives, etching stories that echo across generations as illustrated by this thank you note from a parent:

"Hello wonderful camp directors and staffers!! First of all, I want to say how very thankful we are for all of you. Lydia and Trey had wonderful weeks and have not stopped talking about camp. They're third generation Camp Manatawny campers and it is such a joy to see them experience the place that has always been so special to us. Thank you for keeping the traditions and memories going, and helping our kiddos build a personal relationship with God. That is priceless."

In closing, let us remember that Camp Manatawny's journey is ongoing, a tapestry woven by your hands, guided by your faith, and brightened by your love. Together, we're transforming lives for Christ, instilling values that will echo through the ages.

First New Cabin Construction Begins

Work on the first new cabin has begun! Several weeks ago, two green cabins were relocated. Former Boys 11 was moved where Boys 4 used to be before it was demolished by a falling tree, and Boys 10 was moved to become Boys 0 next to the Summer Office and Canteen, where the chin-up bar used to be located. The first new cabin will mostly occupy the space where those two cabins used to be located.

The first new cabin will be two cabins in one—with two circular bunk room areas (each sleeping up to 14 people, for a total of up to 28 people), a porch, a small bathroom, cubbies, and heat and air conditioning. This will make it possible to use the cabin year-round for Camp events and other groups, along with our summer sessions. If everything goes according to plan, the first new cabin will be available at some point in the Spring, and for Summer Camp in 2024.

The new cabin and other new cabins will replace the greenie cabins over time (many will be relocated to other places in Camp for other uses). Many of the old greenies are more than 80 years old. The new cabins will allow campers to have a convenient bathroom to use in the middle of the night, will allow for devotional space on the porch, provide handicap access, and have AC available for the hottest days at Camp. They will allow us to maintain a counselor-to-camper ratio of two counselors to every 11 or 12 children, during a time when our camper numbers are growing while it is often hard to get enough volunteer counselors. Of course, the new cabins will have all the latest safety features.

As the board promised, construction of the first new cabin began only when sufficient monies were collected so that no mortgaging would be required. Donated funds have already been used to completely re-wire the electrical system and wiring hub at Camp (in the pump house, where the old system almost caught fire and had multiple power outages) and will also be used to build the common infrastructure, like water, sewer, and fire suppression, for all the new cabins in boys town. Doing this up front is required and will save on the overall cost to Camp. One of the special focuses of Giving Tuesday this year, and during end-of-year giving, will be to raise the remaining funds to complete the interior of the first new cabin. Much of the interior will be finished, where possible, by Camp staff and skilled volunteers.

Updates about progress on and dedication of the first new cabin will be shared via Camp's social media channels in coming weeks.



First New Cabin—Groundbreaking and Excavation



First New Cabin—Pouring the Foundation

Sojourners 2023



A group of Sojourners were at it again this year. As always, Camp Manatwny has many facility projects that need to be done each year, and this year we had the good fortune to welcome a large group of Sojourner volunteers to do them. They moved the fence of our horse corral in preparation for our construction of some additional RV spots on the other side of the road in the future, scraped and repainted some of our old greenies, stained buildings, and picked up fallen tree limbs around Camp. They even helped us to move two of our old greenies to new locations in preparation for the start of construction of the first new cabin. Not only did the typical group of Sojourners come to Camp for two weeks in their RVs to do all these things, but they had some area friends join them for some days at Camp, staying in some of our cabins-in-the-woods. Camp management expresses our sincere thanks to all the Sojourners and their friends for working so diligently at Camp and making it look so good.

New Roofs

During the Summer, Camp replaced several of our critical roofs, some of which were leaking and had seen better days. A member of the Camp community donated the roofs and labor and one of his neighbors, a professional Amish roofer and his assistant, installed them. The entire roof replacement process reminded several volunteer staffers of the barn raising scene in the Harrison Ford movie "Witness". The much needed green metal roofs are expected to last for the next 50 years. God is good! All the time!



CAMP MANATAWNY

HELP WANTED

Bookkeeper

Camp Manatawny is hiring! We are looking for a person to join our Camp team who is passionate about God, loves Camp, knows bookkeeping, can learn the Camp UltraCamp system, and can perform a number of office tasks.

Duration: Part-time, 3 days a week (preferably Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 AM to 3 PM, but negotiable. Can start immediately.

Requirements:

- Active relationship with Jesus Christ and passion for Christian ministry.
- Responsible, friendly, organized, works well with others, mature, demonstrates sound judgment.
- Should have work experience in financial and investment systems (preferably with Quickbooks) and handling bank transactions, payments, and various office tasks.
- Ideal candidate will have experience with the UltraCamp system.
- Experience working at a Christian Camp preferred.
- Must maintain all Pennsylvania and Federal background checks as well as meet any Board of Directors' pre-employment requirements.

Roles and Responsibilities: Performing all financial and some office tasks.

Benefits include:

- \$15 per hour or higher, depending on experience.

See job description at www.manatawny.org/employment

Complete application and email to jobs@manatawny.org

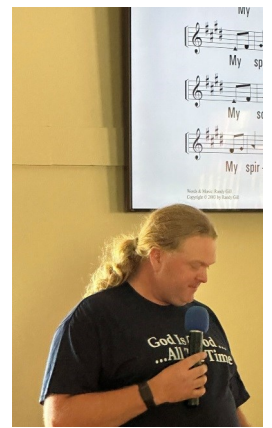
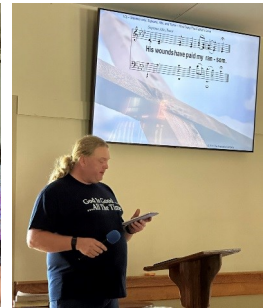
Currently accepting applicants aged 18 and older.



Transforming Lives for Christ

Staff Appreciation Day

On September 2, Camp had our Staff Appreciation Day to say thank you to our volunteer staffers and their families. We served a BBQ lunch, had crafts, riflery, a hymn sing, swimming in the pool and many other activities. Everything was run by our Board Members so that our staff volunteers could come without having any responsibilities, just to have fun.



New Events Tentatively Coming (or Coming Back) in 2024

- Valentines Dinner at Camp - in February
- Family Camp (Fall) - a second Family Camp
- Singles Retreat - for all ages



Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Awards Dinner

THANK YOU
*for the lives you touch
 we appreciate you*
SO MUCH

Once again, Camp continued our tradition this year to thank our Director Teams at the conclusion of our Summer Sessions at a dinner in their honor. This dinner was held in the evening, following our Staff Appreciation Day on September 2. It was catered by an external catering company and served by our Board Members.

94 people attended this special celebration meal - Summer Directors, Camp Staff, Board Members, representatives from Sponsoring Churches, and long-time members of the Camp community.

After the dinner, we also held an award ceremony to recognize a number of special people selected by the Board. The following awards were presented:



Dave Smith presenting to the Gladfelters



Kathy Ashton presenting to the Pearls



Andy Mychajlowycz presenting to Gary Cook



The Dry Bones and Meta Christaldi



Robert "Preacher" Nilram issuing a challenge

Green Rock Award

Awarded to the Summer Session Week with the greatest number of campers registered (155 campers)

Recipients: **Junior High 2 Week Directors Team**
Allison Gladfelter and Derek Garrett

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: **Manny & Becky Vander Vennen**
Eric & Jaime Williamson
Aaron & Jenn Pearl

Lifetime Achievement Award

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 & heartfelt gratitude to you for your lifetime of service to Camp Manatawny and to its mission...

Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!
 Recipients: **Gary & Signa (posthumously) Cook**

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: **Robert and Dawn Nilram**
and to Dry Bones Soldiers
Meta Poulos Christaldi

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

Recipient: **Chip Hartzell**

Winter Rental Promotion

*Group
Gathering*

*Youth Group
Weekend*

*Ladies'
Retreat*

*Winter
Retreat*

*Family
Reunion*

Hold a church/group event at Camp from November to February

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

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

Giving Tuesday & End-of-Year Giving



**From November 28, 2023
Through December 31, 2023**

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Winter Retreat

Retreat program - 3 nights lodging and 9 meals only \$99 for college-aged young adults and high school seniors



December 29, 2023 – January 1, 2024

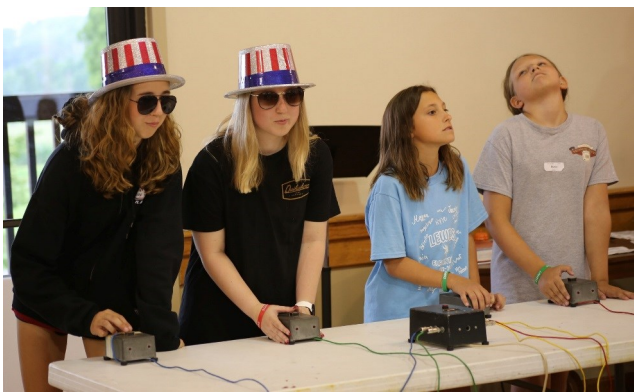


Registration Sunday Coming January 14, 2024



Summer Sessions Photos

7 Summer Sessions + 700 Campers + Almost 500 Volunteers + 179 First-Time Campers + 20+ Sponsoring Congregations + 65 Financial Aid Recipients + 28 Baptisms + Friendships + Bible Classes + Crafts + Riflery + Athletics + Bottle Rockets + Slip and Slide + Climbing Wall + Nine Square + Canteen Time + Worship + Devotionals + Camp Fires + Canteen Time + Swimming + Creek Walks + Horseback Rides + Bouncy Castles + Variety Shows + Bible Buzzer + Singing + Campfires + Archery + Devotionals + Creek Walks + Lots of Smile + The Love of God = Heaven on Earth !!







What Make's Camp Special

By Danielle Gold, Board Secretary



Most long-time campers and volunteers would agree that camp is a special place. For Xavier Johnson, a volunteer this year at Intermediate and Junior High 1 weeks, he stated: "I don't get homesick, I get campsick!" Isn't that the truth for many of us? We count down the days each year until we can see each other again or we even dedicate countdown timers on our phones, much like Kayleigh Shuff who is greatly anticipating going to LiftU at the end of December. Camp is special to her because "it gives us a time to reconnect not only with our friends, but also with our faith. It gives us a place to learn more about God and reignites our passion so we are more prepared to spread the love we feel outside of Camp!" Many would agree that Camp is the place where we come to get our cups filled to overflowing! It is a place to recharge our batteries and to realign our hearts with our Lord and with each other .



Meta Christaldi, a five-week volunteer, shared: "You will find the most amazing people here whether you're a camper, volunteer or both; forever friendships is what makes Camp Manatawny the most amazing place to spend your summers. My "Camp Manatawny Daughters" (pictured below) are there for each other and their "Manatawny bond" will last a lifetime." I believe that is at the heart of why camp is so special to everyone. It is the intersection of friendships, faith, and fellowship. We long to have that slice of heaven every year and it keeps bringing us back even if it costs us our vacation time. "Camp is amazing to me because it has always allowed me to be the version of myself that I wish was easy to be all the time," stated Jackson Kulp, former long-time camper turned volunteer. "Life is hard, but every time I am at camp I am reminded just how life giving following Jesus truly is when we put our all into it...the eternal-life-giving kind!" I hope that every individual that gets to grace the Bailey Dining Hall, sing in Garrett Hall or maybe even just witnesses a stunning Camp sunset will feel the life changing miracles that happen here and will come again and again!



"Camp Manatawny Daughters"

