

The Bethel Times

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Campground



Fall 2022

In this Issue:

Teen Camp	2
Kids Camp	2
Family Camp	3
Camp Updates	5
Projects	5
Testimonial	7

Home

Sometimes I don't recognize you anymore. I hear kids laughing faintly, and screaming as they speed by on bikes. I watch them go with a smile on my face, but it slowly fades away as I notice I don't recognize them either. I walk the same roads, I climb the same trees, I sit in the same pews, and yet, I don't recognize you.

I sit on the swings now where I sat my second time counseling for kids camp not sure how I would survive 4 more days when we were a mere 6 hours in. The swings are different. I climb the tree with the not-so-secret secret hiding spot we would constantly climb. We thought we were so cool. The tree is different. I sit in a hammock under the trees where we would hammock and talk forever only being cut off when it was time for evening service. The hammock is different. I slide down the big metal slide remembering days when we would launch water balloons down the slide and see if they popped or survived. They often popped. The slide is different. I sit in the pews where we would sit summer after summer listening to message after message. And yet, the pews are different. I even sit in my own cabin, listening to the air conditioner run as I remember the days of playing Polly Pockets on a rainy camp day, and yet, the cabin is different. Why is it different?

Why are the swings different, and the kids, and the trees? Why is it all different? Why don't I recognize it? Then I look in the mirror. Staring back at me is a girl I don't recognize. She's 21, in college, with a job, a boyfriend, and a team. She's not the same girl who looked back at me the last time I looked in this mirror. The last time I looked in this mirror, an 18 year old girl stared back at me. She had come to this mirror many times and it always seemed to show the same girl; Young, inexperienced, and alone. Yet when she walked around this place, somehow, she didn't feel so young. She didn't feel so inexperienced. And she didn't feel so alone. She felt right where she needed to be.

It's been a long time since I've been here. In this place I know all too well, and yet don't recognize. But maybe I do. I just see it differently now. I've grown up since the last time I was here. It's no longer just the place where I got my call into ministry. It's now the place that supports me in my youth pastor dreams, including getting a job in the district. It's no longer just the place I'm a student, it's now the place where I'm in leadership. It's no longer just the place where I would hope to meet a boy who would just maybe pay attention to me, it's the place I get to bring my boy as he intentionally listens to me tell story after story of those little camp crushes. It's no longer just the place I grew up, it's the place I continue to grow.

I spent two summers away from a place I care so deeply for, and I almost thought I didn't recognize it. But then I begin to walk that road again and it all comes rushing back to me. This is home.

Raegan Tippey—Youth Director Sweetser Wesleyan Church





Teen Camp Summary 2022

Teen Camp was a wonderful week of camp. We continued our post- COVID, "combined" Jr/Sr High week of camp with the theme of being "ONE" in Christ. Kingswood University's Shaun Miller was our speaker, and a unified band of Kingswood and Southern Wesleyan students led worship in our rallies. IWU students helped with recreation activities. Despite the sweltering heat, the Holy Spirit was hotter with nearly all of our 230+ students affirming some further step of faith in Christ. We also kept the tradition of going to Pine Lake for a day away, and our cookout and foot washing ceremony at the water park were refreshing in many ways. Most importantly, it was a week that our students could find relief from the pressures of school and real life. In that pause they could hang out together, explore faith, and rejuvenate well, and even the volunteers and staff were able to enjoy the week helping/seeing these students grow. Thank you for your support keeping camp alive and well for students to continue finding Jesus at these holy grounds. **Mark your calendar for next year, June 12 -16, 2023!**



Jeff Brady, Teen Camp Director

Kids Camp Summary 2022

Kids Camp is always an exciting week! We had team building, Marion splash house, games, foam party, beach party and glow party. Yet it continues to have a huge impact for the Kingdom of God. Our theme for this year was "Created to" focusing on 6 different areas; Created in the Image of God, Created to give and go (Beatitudes), Created to Lead, Created to Serve, Created to Worship, Created to Move (recreation). Our speaker for this year was Dylan Kelly & Paula Rucker from Dayspring Wesleyan Church in Marion, Ohio along with Sarah DeMond and her team from Three Rivers Wesleyan who did worship during morning and evening rallies. We were also blessed again to have a SWU ministry team this year called "The Difference" that helped with recreation activities. We had 260 kids and volunteers here deepening their relationship with Jesus and each other. Out of those 260, 46 of them accepted Jesus as their Savior and 23 of them recommitted their lives to Jesus. But there is no way to measure the real impact that week together made in each one of their lives, and the lives of those around them back home. **Mark your calendar for next year, July 10 -14, 2023!**



Karen Farmer, Kids Camp Director

Family Camp

Family Camp 2021 made history for the amount of rain, but Family Camp 2022 made history for heat. However, despite the heat we were blessed to hold another successful camp giving individuals and families the opportunity to Refresh, Renew, and Revive. Our evening evangelists for this year were Dr. Christopher Williams from Lakeview Wesleyan and Michael MacNeil from Kingswood University, with worship lead by Rev. Johnnie Blair from Trinity Wesleyan Church in Tipton. Our morning bible study was led by Dr. Matthew Stewart from Sweetser Wesleyan Church with worship lead by Dr. Terry Neal from Eastview Wesleyan Church.

One of the most amazing things about Family Camp is the community and the love that we all have for one another. We received this testimony about Family Camp from a 6th grader and these were part of her words (unedited). *“Well, My favorite thing about Family Camp is the people, the activities, and the worship..... Everyone is just so nice and the games and activities are always fun and amusing.....Family Camp is a fun event! There's nothing like Family Camp! And to be aughtest... I wish I lived their.”* — Valencia Vasquez

Mark you calendar for Family Camp 2023—July 23—July 30, 2023

Rob Tippey, Family Camp Director



Wesleyan Married Couples Retreat

Married Couple Retreat 2022 is one for the history books. This was our 50th Anniversary. We had a team of speakers including Ryan and Sarah Taylor, Dan and Kara Kensinger, Mike and Krista Brown along with Victor and Andrea. Our worship this year was led by Jonah and Shaley Hartsburg. Saturday evenings activities included the option of a murder mystery dinner, games or a date night with your spouse followed by a “wedding reception” in the tabernacle. We had 57 couples providing an increase in attendance from last year. **Mark your calendar for September 8-10, 2023.**



Victor and Andrea Vinluan, WMCR Chair Couple

Old Time Camp

All camps are special but there's something especially sweet about Old Time Camp Meeting. Now it could be said that I'm a bit biased since I've been a leader of this particular event from the beginning (about 10 years running), but I don't really think that's it. When most of us think of summer camps, we think of camps that are intended for kids and teens. And for most of us reading this article we likely grew up going to summer camps ourselves. But then we grew up. Sure, we have tons of amazing memories of summer camp from our childhood that we fondly remember but then we aged out of the camps and went on with life. Old Time Camp Meeting is all about stepping back in time and going back to camp.



Old Time Camp Meeting is designed to have a “camp meeting” feel with hymns and preaching that leaves a mark on the hearts of everyone who attends. My heart is always blessed as I watch people gather and listen to the congregation sing songs that remind them of a time when hymns were all that were sung. The tabernacle is filled with such loud singing that you can't help but smile. For the past three years Rev. Ken DyKhoff led us in singing and Dr. Terry Neal played the piano. This is an amazing musical team that knows how to lead the music portion of the service. This year we welcomed Dr. Matt Stewart, lead pastor at Sweetser Wesleyan Church, to the pulpit. He brought amazing messages that centered around the idea that no matter our age, God is calling us to “Finish Strong”. Each message was Scripture filled and timely for those in attendance. Every year I have people thank me for continuing Old Time Camp Meeting. It's an event that demonstrates that camp isn't just for kids. God

wants each of us to have a place where we feel seen and loved. If you haven't ever been to Old Time Camp Meeting before you need to make sure you mark your calendar for next year. And don't you dare think you need to be “old” to come to this camp. What does “old” even mean? Old is a state of mind and this is camp so you are never too young or too old to meet Jesus at Fairmount Camp! **Mark your calendar for August 16-20, 2023**



Angela Spangler—Executive Director

***Fairmount Camp is a ministry of the Crossroads District of
The Wesleyan Church***

Thank you to all the stakeholders who have helped make our 2022 camping season a success! In 2022, we have accomplished the following projects

- ⇒ New Staff:
 - James Carpenter—Facilities Manager
 - Daniel Hatfield—Grounds Manager
- ⇒ New Playground Equipment
- ⇒ Updated Logo
- ⇒ Entrance/Signage
- ⇒ 12 Dead Trees Removed
- ⇒ Electrical Repair From Downed Tree
- ⇒ Updated Website
- ⇒ Partnership with Marketing Firm
- ⇒ New West Bathhouse Boiler

Thank You

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- ⇒ West Bathhouse Storage Tank/Water Softener
- ⇒ East Bathhouse Roof/Paint
- ⇒ Centennial Renovation
- ⇒ Additional Tree Removal

If you would like to make a donation for these or in general you can:

1. Send a check and specify the project on the memo line.
2. Use the QR code below
3. Text the amount you want to give to 765-295-5155



EVENT AND RETREAT CENTER



Are you looking for a place to hold your next event? We invite you to consider utilizing Fairmount Campground’s setting and resources for your next retreat, gathering, or event. We have three fully winterized buildings including 6 hotel style rooms and a bunkhouse that can sleep 21 people.

Check out the website or email us at info@fairmountcamp.org

Upcoming 2023 Events

<u>Spring Camp N’ Craft:</u> March 9—12, 2023	<u>Old Time Camp:</u> August 16-20, 2023
<u>Teen Camp:</u> June 12—16, 2023	<u>Married Couple Retreat:</u> September 8- 10, 2023
<u>Kids Camp:</u> July 10—July 14, 2023	<u>Fall Camp N Craft:</u> September 28— October 1, 2023
<u>Family Camp:</u> July 23—July 30, 2023	<u>James Dean Weekend:</u> September 21—25, 2023

Volunteers

Volunteering is one of the most rewarding, hands-on ways to support Fairmount Camp. It is because of faithful servants that give of their time and experience that we are able to keep moving forward.

Grounds Maintenance | Special Projects | Work Teams

CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE FOR SCHEDULING!

What Does Fairmount Camp Mean to You?



My relationship with the Fairmount Camp was primarily one of responsibility as chairman of the camp committee. There was always a lot to do to prepare the grounds for the summer camps. It was important that everything be ready in time for the first group of campers, and we worked hard to make sure that it was. I could not just sit back and relax during Family Camp, because there were always situations that would arise demanding my attention. Even so, I always found something about the week of Family Camp to enjoy. I particularly liked the Bible studies. Sitting under the instruction of great Bible teachers was so uplifting and encouraging. I loved the good preaching and wonderful singing. I so much enjoyed meeting with old friends – and new ones – over great meals provided by our cooks in the dining hall. And I love that it has become a true “family” camp – where there is something for everyone.

Many important life decisions have been made on the grounds by campers through the years, and God has richly blessed the legacy that continues here. Fairmount Camp also provides great opportunities for service and giving. It would not survive without volunteers and people willing to invest in the ongoing work. Fairmount Camp has been exactly what we need in the District; We need it for our District ministries! The value of camping ministry is such that in spite of the fact it has been here for over 127 years and has gone through many changes, it has still maintained its identity. Fairmount Camp has proven to be something of value. Many things have changed, but not the message it proclaims! My hope for the future is that it continues!

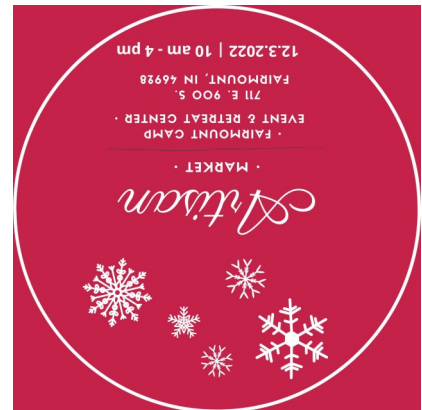
Written by Richard Deisler

Richard Deisler’s service to Fairmount Camp spans over 30 years, during which time he served on the camp meeting committee, which at that time addressed all the camp needs, from programming to the upkeep of the grounds. He was instrumental in making many changes and improvements in the facility and worked faithfully to make sure the camp was an inviting place for all ages.

Fairmount Camp is more than a location to have summer camps. We provide opportunities to change lives by hearing and receiving the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ.

People of all ages are challenged and equipped to become healthier in body, mind, and spirit. The camp experience helps children, teens, and adults build character, values, and relationships that will last a lifetime.

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