

BEECHWOOD HILLS



Western Michigan Christian Encampment
www.beechwoodhills.org

President's Report

By Linda Wadsworth



The grounds of the youth camp have been dormant this past cold winter but the camp board is still working hard to maintain and improve this wonderful outreach for Christ. We meet every second Friday of the month and would love to have you join us for the meeting. Your input would be welcomed.

Plans for summer camp are well underway with exciting lessons that will answer many of the 'whys?' that we ask in our spiritual lives. Mike Scholten is developing these lessons. We have asked the youth council to design the t-shirts for this year.

The plans for a Camp Administrator are moving along. We have applications and resumes being entered for the position already. With the work on the house progressing we hope to have an Administrator in place by summer/fall of 2010. Once this is accomplished we should begin to see the campground utilized in a more efficient manner. We also hope to have grants written that will help us obtain financial support for the wonderful projects that we have planned for the camp's future. These projects will progress when we have someone at the campground fulltime to perform the business role of organizing and keeping things moving along.

Coupon Books

This year the camp will be offering area coupon books. These books offer many coupons to local restaurants.

The books cost \$20 each and are tailored for each area. The books will be available for the following

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The CAD students are currently working on the architectural plans for the year round cabins and the ACATEC (Allegan County Area Technical Education Center) students, we hope, will be able to build them for us.

The Youth Council has purchased items with the first installment of Grant Money from United Way. They are now working on how to best utilize the second and soon the third checks. Remember if you donate to UW you can request that those donations go to the Youth Camp.

We hope the newsletter is keeping you up to date on what is happening with Beechwood Hills. As president of the board I wish to thank you for all your help with keeping this youth camp viable. My granddaughter who is 10 thinks and says, "It is the best place in the world!"

God bless you all in your Christian walk.

locations: Kalamazoo/Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, and Lakeshore (includes Holland, Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Muskegon).

Please see any Board member to purchase a book. They are a great value!

A portion of the books sold will go towards camper fees for 2010.

First Vice President Report

By Mike Scholten

At a previous Board Meeting the Bible class material was submitted and approved for summer camp in 2010. While there is snow on the ground, preparations are in process for summer camp. Before you know it, it will be July and there will be leaves on the trees, grass to be mowed and the laughter of campers and even the songs that they sing together. While the material has not been completed in its entirety, the theme and the twice daily lesson titles have. The Board has asked the Junior Board to come up with a T-Shirt design this year. Our theme is the following:

Why?
God has ALL the answers!

I am excited about the material as it develops! We have two Bible classes per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. At this point we are thinking that we may even have at least one lesson from this theme in the evening Chapel each night also. The following are the titles:

- #1 – Why Read the Bible?
- # 2 – Why by the Book (Bible)?
- #3 – Why Worship?
- # 4 – Why Pray?
- # 5 – Why Fellowship?
- # 6 – Why Serve Others?
- # 7 – Why Do Habits Grow?
- # 8 – Why It Is OK to Struggle?
- # 9 – Really, How Close Does God Want Me To Be In My Daily Walk?
- # 10 – How Do I Know That God Is Really There?

As you can see, there will be a number of ways these lessons will be developed. But the one thing overall we are planning is that each camper will have a greater appreciation for God and Jesus Christ through the lessons. They will be challenging with the overall goal of helping each camper cope with the struggles in their lives at school, in recreation, and of course in the worship setting. There are so many challenges that our young people face that we as parents or grandparents just really do not understand anymore. Today is not like was “in our day” that is for sure. That is why this Bible material will be used and developed for the campers this year.

One thing all of us can do is search for some great men and women to serve as Bible teachers this year. There will be some very special challenges to the lesson material in lessons 7, 8, and 9. Our Bible teachers will need to be comfortable dealing with the issues that our campers will bring up in the lessons. Our Bible teachers will need to be comfortable in their faith and know why they believe what they believe. They will need to be examples both at their home church and in their daily lives as well. We need some men and women that will start planning now for the dates to be at camp and ready to teach.

We as Board Members, the camp directors, and all of the volunteers that help out at camp do not take our responsibility lightly. We are serious about providing a GREAT environment for each and every camper. We take our Bible classes, Chapel, and campfire sessions with the campers very seriously. We know that we cannot replace the home environment. We know that one week at camp cannot overcome every situation that our campers encounter at school and with their friends. But, we do know that we can share with them the Word of God, tell them about God, Jesus and His church every day – at least 4 times a day! It is always our hope and prayer that we can and will make a difference in the lives of our campers. We are thankful for the parents, grandparents, and other family members who send their loved ones to camp to be campers.

I hope that you are as excited as I am about the Bible material for summer camp. Please pray that all will go well with the preparation of the material and that we can change lives for the better in July, 2010. As always, thank-you for your interest in camp and thank-you for your support, we cannot do this without you.

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men...”

Acts 17:24-26

Annual Lock-In

Who? You of course! Along with many other of your closest Christian family members!

When? Friday night. **February 12th, 2010.** Be there at 9:00pm, and be ready to be picked up by 6:00am Saturday.

Where? The Davis D. Hunting YMCA in downtown Grand Rapids.



Second Vice President Report

By Dan Scholten

I owe a big thank you to Todd Devries for his service as 2nd V.P. over the last few years. While Todd is still on the board, he has decided to not be on the executive board for now. I can only hope I can do as well as he has in the past. Also, other thanks to the men of the Portage congregation as they are working on the administrators house. It continues to have great improvements on the remodel.

It's that time of the year again; spring will be here before you know it. We have a long list projects and needs. We can use any help that you can offer, anything

Chapel Repairs are Necessary

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Recently, the camp was visited by an engineer who looked at the Chapel. After his assessment, he shared that the Chapel is in need of some immediate repairs.

We are in need of carpentry or building experience individual to help with this emergency repair on the

What will be there for me to do?

- Swim time in the aquatic center (2 pools, water slide, Jacuzzi, Lazy River) Please wear a proper swim suit...No cotton T-shirts.
- Four gymnasiums ready for basketball, volleyball, and dodge ball. Racquet & Wally Ball courts
- Pizza and Pop included
- Two rock walls
- Devo time!
- Teen Zone Game Room
- Conference room with tables and chairs
- Breakfast

How much will it cost? Only \$30 per person. A great price for the amount of fun you'll be having!

"So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law, but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sine at work within my members."

Romans 7:21-23

from painting to electrical to cleaning. Let me know if there is any way that you can help as we will be starting to set up projects that need to be done.

In May we will be having some work days to get the camp open so be watching for the dates of that. Our calendar can be viewed online for the 2010 dates for activities including the work days.

Once again please feel free to contact me in regards to what you can do for the camp: danielscholten@sbcglobal.net

chapel. Some of the supports need replacement and hopefully before we get a major heavy snow. If you know of anyone or have experience in carpentry work of this kind, please contact Mike Scholten/Linda Wadsworth or Dan Scholten. We were advised that this is a priority repair. Please help if you can.

Third Vice President Report

By Jack Crofoot

As the memories of the year 2009 fade into the twilight of time past, hope and anticipation for new beginnings and achievements spring anew as a new year of promise blossoms into reality.

The schedule of events for 2010 has been laid, and plans for their successful execution are now ongoing. The complete 2010 camp events schedule can be viewed online by clicking on the "Coming Events" link of our home page at www.beechwoodhills.org.

This year's camp schedule has been established as follows:

Senior Week -July 11-17, 2010
Intermediate Week - July 18-24, 2010
Junior Week -July 25-31, 2010

Applications for this year's camping season are now available on line, and can be downloaded, printed, filled out and mailed in now to secure a place for your child or grandchild.

Fundraiser News

There are currently lots of fundraisers in the plans for this coming year. Many are traditional of Beechwood Hills, and some are new ones.

We need volunteers to go to their local Papa John's to set up a day for 20% of sales generated by camp Pizza lovers to go towards their campers' fee or general fund! The person setting up must create a flyer for their congregation!

Also, all individuals who are interested in helping on the Memorial Day Fund Raiser to give Rhonda a call!

We also have an opportunity to sell coupons at Younkers again in February for all families needing money for camp! The DATE IN STORE is FEBRUARY 27th! Mark your calendars! Please email me, at debsbras@live.com for additional information to sell at store front!

The year of 2010 will also present an opportunity to expand the teaching abilities of the camp's web site. Plans are now in progress to present a series of faith building lessons in short 3 minute streaming videos for all to view and learn. The board is encouraged by the fact that the web site has had over 4000 visits in the past 18 months since the count has started. It is our intent to continue to expand the teaching tools which are made available to all who desire to learn about our Lord in an ever increasing amount and variety.

The closing of one year and the beginning of the new is perhaps, a good time to reflect upon that great Commission which the Lord has given to those who would follow in His footsteps, and be mindful of the responsibility that comes with that charge. And to remember always, that we are successful only when we deliver His word to a lost and dying world.

Staff Needed for Camp

For all those who would enjoy working as a staff member during one or two weeks of the 2010 camping season, the board needs to know of your desire very early this year due to the new state law concerning Child Abuse Clearance for all camp staff 21 years and over.

To notify the board, you can go to www.beechwoodhills.org and click on the Email link located on the home page to send the board notification of your desire with the following information:

Name
Address
Email Address
Week(s) Desired
Position(s) Desired

We are all looking forward to another successful camping season this year.

What's New with the Youth Council

By Emily Trinklein

The BWH Youth Council is happy to announce that we have officially established our bylaws! It took a lot of thought and planning, but we believe we have set a good foundation of guidelines to keep this council moving forward in the right direction.

We have established a two-year term for council members and a one-year term for officers. If you are between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, and are a member, or attending a church of Christ, you are eligible to be considered for this council. Many times throughout the year there are openings for council members and/or new officers. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this Youth Council! You can make a difference for the present and future benefit of Beechwood Hills, and have a lot of fun doing it, too! Contact Wendy Hoekstra, the council's youth adviser, or any member on the Youth Council if you are interested, or would like more information.

This council has been busy in purchasing items with the money from the grant given to us so

Essay Contest, 2010

Would you like to win a free week at camp this summer? Just write an essay answering the question:

“You need a faith that is real, that is personal, that is your own. How does Beechwood Hills Camp help YOU grow closer to God and make your faith your own?”

The essay needs to be less than 500 words and type written. Your name and phone number should be written on the back of the essay. It must be received by May 19th, 2008. Mail your essay along with a copy of your camper application that may be printed from the Beechwood Hills website, www.beechwoodhills.org to:

Scott Bidigare, Camp Administrator
7269 Snowridge Ct
Alto, MI 49302

graciously by the United Way. We have been very blessed with the opportunity to spend hundreds of dollars on various activity and sports equipment for camper usage this summer! We are very excited about our new purchases, and we hope you are, too!

The Youth Council has also been busy and having fun in dreaming up ideas for this year's camp activities. If you, our reader, have a favorite game or activity that you have played at camp in the past, and would like to see it happen this year, let the Youth Council know! We welcome any ideas you may have. With your help, we can make this summer at camp a BLAST! Feel free to email your ideas to emily.trinklein@gmail.com.

We ask you to please continue to keep this Youth Council in your prayers as we make plans and decisions for this summer at camp. May the Lord bless us with another great year!

WHAT YOU CAN FIND ON WWW.BEECHWOODHILLS.ORG:

- ALL CAMP APPLICATIONS AND ACTIVITY PERMISSION SLIPS.
- THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS.
- A CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2010.
- PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS
- RENTAL INFORMATION AND RATES
- PICTURES FROM PAST ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CAMP WEEK PHOTOS.
- SLIDESHOW LESSONS AND INTERACTIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

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