

Out of the Woods

Volume 14, Number 1

Spring 2011

[Front page, left column]

OUR MISSION: to inspire & equip this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

OUR VISION: to provide an UNFORGETTABLE camp experience where the presence of God drowns out the world and its influences.

REGISTRATION INFO

Registration for Woodlands' 2011 Summer Camps is well under way. Most weeks are currently full with waiting lists (although there is limited availability in select weeks). If you have not yet registered and your desired week is showing full, please get on the waiting list ASAP as spots open up quite often due to cancellations or a change of plans. You can check current availability online at woodlandscamp.org/availability.

FINANCIAL NEEDS SNAPSHOT

Cabin Fund - \$224,385

Scholarship Fund - \$23,232

SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED

Would you be willing to help send an at-risk, underprivileged child to camp? If so, you can send a tax-deductible gift in the enclosed envelope or donate online at woodlandscamp.org. Your gift could change a life!

ONLINE TRADING POST

Our 2011 line of Woodlands gear and apparel is available online at woodlandscamp.org/shop. Check it out!

[Front page, main article]

THE BULL'S-EYE

In nearly every arena of life, there is a bull's-eye. A goal. A definition for success. Clarification of a win. They exist in sports. They exist in business. They exist in ministry. They exist at Woodlands.

Every week of camp begins with orientation – an all-camp meeting at 5:15 on Monday afternoon where we get the kids amped up for the week and lay out our bulls-eye for them. We want them to know up front what we are all about.

- 1. To follow Jesus.** First and foremost, it is our desire to see every camper that attends Woodlands leave at the end of the week as a follower of Jesus. They're not forced or cajoled or manipulated or dragged down an

aisle kicking and screaming. They are, however, presented with truth and given an opportunity to respond if they choose.

- 2. To love God's Word.** We believe that one of the most important elements needed for an individual to walk humbly with God is to love, understand and apply God's Word. So we set aside time and provide a plan for our campers to get into the habit of reading God's Word each day. We set aside time and provide a plan for our campers to get into the habit of memorizing God's Word each day. Then we send the plan home with them to enable them to continue their new habit through the rest of the year.
- 3. To live responsibly.** Today's generations are marked by irresponsible living. "It's someone else's fault." "Let someone else do it." "Everyone owes me." That's certainly not the recipe for success laid out in Scripture. At Woodlands, campers are encouraged to live responsibly. They are expected to play by the rules, to clean up after themselves and to be on time. They make their bed each morning and pick up their stuff. They help clean their cabin and their bathroom. They are given opportunities to exercise responsible living here at camp to help prepare them to live responsibly away from camp.
- 4. To give generously.** We want our campers to learn the joys of living life with open hands, not closed fists. To learn that God's desire for them is to hold loosely to earthly things. To learn that they are managers of the resources God has entrusted to them, not owners. So each week, they are given an opportunity to give a portion of their spending money to the Lord. Campers have given to underwrite Bible translation efforts. They have sent 2,000 Bibles to parts of the world that are hostile to God's Word. This summer, they will be funding a missionary expedition to run a camp on a remote island in the South Pacific that currently has little to no gospel witness!
- 5. To have the most amazing, incredible, UNFORGETTABLE week of their lives!** We want the experience of our campers to be life-changing from the inside out, but we also want them to have FUN! That's why we have zip lines and water slides and a blob and a jet ski and paintball and a climbing tower and a dome and crazy games and super cool shirts and incredible coffee and... We want this to be the best week of their lives. Because we have learned that if we can create an environment that kids are counting down the days to for months in advance, then they are more willing to listen to what our staff and speakers have to tell them about Jesus.

Bull's-eyes are important. Pray that we will be passionate and effective in hitting ours!

[page 2]

ONE DOWN (ALMOST), ONE TO GO

by Big Jon

For the past 2 ½ years you have heard me talk a lot about our Cabin CAMPAign. I have written about it in newsletters. I have posted about it on facebook. I have scrawled out the floor plan on napkins. I have cast the vision to individuals and groups alike. I have asked you to consider giving to it. Why? Because I believe this project is one of the most vital projects we have undertaken in the last 14 years. These cabins provide much needed camper beds. They provide much needed staff beds. They provide much needed meeting space. In short, they take our capacity to what we believe is our sweet spot – 288 camper beds. At that level, we feel like we can achieve maximum impact while maintaining the small camp feel that has made Woodlands so special and effective over the years.

Well, after a lot of praying, planning, dreaming, scheming, scrawling, fundraising and building, the first of our two new cabins is nearly a reality. Lord willing, by June 24, just in time for our middle school camps, Pine Cove will be open for business!

The original plan was to complete both Pine Cove (boys' cabin) and High Pointe (girls' cabin) in time for Summer 2011. God, however, had other plans. This winter's weather and more stringent building codes kept the project from moving at the pace we hoped. So, as is done so often in the camp world, we improvised.

When it became evident that we could not complete both cabins by summer, we pulled off of the girls' cabin and concentrated all of our efforts and resources on the boys' cabin. That solved half of our problem, but we still needed additional beds for girls.

So, we improvised...again. Thanks largely in part to a volunteer group from Greenville, SC, we renovated the Doublewide. The Doublewide is one of the few remaining structures from the old days and has housed hundreds of campers and staff members over the past 14 years. It was the nicest cabin we had until Timber Ridge was completed in 2003. Compared to our newer cabins, however, it left much to be desired. Until now. Dressed up with log siding, new flooring, new mattresses, new windows and updated bathrooms, it is ready to reclaim its old glory...for this summer anyway.

As soon as Pine Cove is completed, we will move our crew back over to High Pointe. If all goes well, we hope to have High Pointe completed late this year and ready for campers in 2012.

A lot has happened over the past 2 ½ years, but there's a lot more to go. And to get where we need to go, we need your help. Here's how you can play a part in landing the Cabin CAMPaign plane...

You can pray! Pray that God will give our men the physical and emotional energy to build a second cabin on the heels of completing the first one. Pray that God will provide all the resources needed to finish High Pointe by year-end. Pray for safety. Pray for wisdom in the details.

You can give! With the increase in materials costs, as well as the myriad of new requirements imposed by our state and local fire marshals, these cabins will end up costing nearly double what Timber Ridge and Lakewood cost just a few years ago. We need God's people to give.

You can help! If not for the help of several volunteer groups skilled in construction over the past six months, we would not be where we are. If your company or your church has skilled laborers, we can use your help.

Would you help us? Together, we can make an investment that will pay dividends for generations...*for eternity.*

[page 3, left column]

NEW CHAPEL VENUE

If you were a camper at Woodlands last summer, you probably remember how crowded (and hot) the chapel was. Built in 1961, our current chapel has seen tens of thousands of people sit in its chairs, worship God through song and hear the good news that Jesus loves them over the last fifty years. It is set up to comfortably seat 250. We need 350-400 seats. So this summer, for the first time since the Eisenhower administration, the chapel will be vacant.

A year ago, we put the finishing touches on the Woodlands Dome, a 13,500 square foot athletic facility. Part of the reason for building the Dome was to bridge the gap between our undersized current chapel and the new chapel we hope to build in a few years.

We are in the final stages of outfitting the Dome with a stage and the lighting and seating necessary to facilitate all of our chapel services and Skitsophrenia programs for the next few summers. Whereas we will lose the intimate setting of the chapel, as well as the hot, humid, stale smell of sweaty teenagers, we pray that the presence of God and the life changing power of His Holy Spirit that we've seen in the chapel will stay the same!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Matthew 5 tells Christians that we are to be salt and light. We understand how to be a light in a dark world, but salt? Interesting metaphor.

Salt is used in cooking to enhance the flavor of meats, vegetables and various other foods. Salt is used for cleaning. Salt is used as a preservative. Salt is used to bring healing. Salt is a basic staple in life.

S.A.L.T. has also become a staple at Woodlands. Piloted in 2006, S.A.L.T. is our top-level leadership development program. It stands for Service And Leadership Training. S.A.L.T. is not designed for the masses – it is geared towards a specific set of high school campers. They must be a previous camper at Woodlands. No “rookies” in S.A.L.T. They must apply and be accepted. They must be growing in their relationship with Christ and passionate about serving others. They must demonstrate natural leadership abilities amongst their peers.

Although camp is naturally fun, the purpose of S.A.L.T is not highlighted through the various activities that the normal camper would enjoy. The S.A.L.T program is built around two goals: service opportunities and leadership training. A typical day provides many opportunities for S.A.L.T. campers to pour themselves into what God is doing here at Woodlands (serving in the dining hall, camp stores, etc.), as well as giving our staff the opportunity to pour themselves into the S.A.L.T. campers. The goal of S.A.L.T is to teach the campers that the Christian life is not a sacrifice but rather an opportunity to joyfully pursue an invaluable treasure. The campers are not only trained in service and leadership skills, but they also have the opportunity to sit in on select staff meetings and hang out with the staff on the weekends. Throughout the two-week period of leadership and spiritual training, the S.A.L.T. program aids its campers in taking their walk with Christ to the next level and gives a new motivation in their service to others.

If you would like information on how to apply for S.A.L.T., please visit woodlandscamp.org/salt.

[p. 3, right hand column]

YOU CAN HELP!

Our mission statement says, “Woodlands exists to inspire and equip this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.” Period. Every project that we undertake helps to fulfill that mission. Every camp that we run helps to fulfill that mission. Every brochure and newsletter that is printed helps to fulfill that mission. Every dollar that is donated helps to fulfill that mission. The goals of evangelism, discipleship, leadership training and changing lives are at the core of everything that we do.

We cannot, however, fulfill that mission alone. Our needs are great, and *you can help!* Now, fundraising is not a part of ministry that I cherish. I do, however, believe in making Woodlands' needs known to God's people so that if He chooses, He can connect hearts that have the desire and capacity to give with the opportunities and needs that exist.

If you do feel led to help, following are three ways you can help advance God's Kingdom through the ministry of Woodlands Camp...

1. Pray – *"The prayers of righteous people are powerful and effective!"*
2. Give once (either with a check in the enclosed envelope or online at woodlandscamp.org) to one of two key funds. Whether you prefer funding buildings and growth or paying for a needy child to attend camp, there are many opportunities to invest in God's Kingdom at Woodlands:
 - **Cabin CAMPAign snapshot:**
 - Each of the two new cabins will sleep 48 campers, as well as provide much needed housing for 32 sponsors and summer staff members.
 - **Scholarship Fund snapshot:**
 - Lord willing, we hope to bring 250 at-risk, underprivileged kids to camp on scholarship this summer. These campers can't afford to come without the generous help of friends like you.
3. Give monthly
 - **Monthly Partner Program snapshot:**
 - Monthly Partners are friends who commit to support Woodlands monthly for 18 months at either the \$25, \$50 or \$100 level
 - All Monthly Partner donations will go toward our Cabin CAMPAign
 - Donations can be set up online at woodlandscamp.org and occur automatically each month for 18 months
 - Donations are debited monthly from a credit card or bank account
 - All donations within a calendar year will be itemized on a tax-deductible receipt that will be mailed at year-end

Our needs are great, our vision is greater and our God is great enough to fulfill both. Thanks for being a part of what God is doing at Woodlands Camp! Together will make a significant impact for the Kingdom!

[back page, middle panel]

FOR MORE INFO...

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Woodlands is so grateful for the following volunteer groups who invested a significant amount of time to help us finish our construction projects in time for summer!

North Point Community Church

Hampton Park Baptist Church
Jon Peery Construction
Helen First Baptist Church

[back page, bottom panel]

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

May 16-25- Training Camp

May 26-28- Pee Wee Camp

May 30-June 3- Junior 1

June 6-10- Junior 2

June 13-17- Junior 3

June 20-24- Junior 4

June 6-10- Day 1

June 13-17- Day 2

June 20-24- Day 3

June 27-July 2- Junior High 1/ Xtreme Junior High 1

July 4-9- Junior High 2/ Xtreme Junior High 2

July 11-16- Teen 1/ Xtreme Teen 1

July 18-23- Teen 2/ Xtreme Teen 2

July 25-30- Teen 3/ Xtreme Teen 3