



Covenant Pines Reflections

Summer 2009, p. 2



The Newsletter of Covenant Pines Bible Camp

Spring 2009 Edition

www.covenantpines.org



Great changes going on at camp!

By Bruce Peterson
CPBC Executive Director

Two years ago, a renewed site plan was presented to the Camp Board by Howard Dearthoff. In it, plans for the development of our Silver Beach Family Area were outlined, along with a new maintenance area, a welcome center, a new worship center and many other improvements. As with most site plans, this dynamic document focuses long range, outlining future plans and dreams. Several of these dreams are becoming reality in 2009.

The first major area of work was done at Silver Beach. Before any construction of cabins, a new septic system needed to be installed. The \$60,000 project was completed in the fall of



2008, making way for the construction of family cabins. The first cabin's foundation has been laid, and we are now ready to begin framing the cabin this spring. Once completed, the first of the cabins will be available for families and small groups that may want to fix their own meals in this four-bedroom complex.

The second area of work was to move the maintenance area out of the center of camp. The shop building—known as the “three stall garage”—has been moved to a new location just south of the new dining hall. The building will be transformed into much-needed staff

housing.

Volunteers have been working on the building, which we hope to complete by summer. A new storage building will be constructed away from the center core of camp to provide much needed storage space, now that the three stall has been moved.

All of this work is being completed by generous donations from Friends of Covenant Pines and hundreds of volunteer hours of labor.

If you are interested in bringing a team to work on either project, either give the Camp Office a call at (218) 768-2610, e-mail retreat@covenantpines.org, or contact me by phone at (651) 766-6876, or by e-mail at bruce@covenantpines.org.

The value of a Bible Camp experience



Do you know of someone looking for the perfect Summer Camp experience for their child, teenager or grandchild?

You can help them find it!! Covenant Pines Bible Camp may be exactly what they are looking for! Youth camps are designed to encourage growth in all areas of a child's life. Covenant Pines trains its summer staff for 2 full weeks. In turn, the summer staff works hard to provide a loving, excit-

ing and energizing environment where life-changing moments can happen on a daily basis.

You can assure newcomers that their child will be cared for by loving Christian mentors. Reach out & encourage parents you know to view Covenant Pines' **introductory parent's video** online at www.covenantpines.org/media.

See article on page 3 about benefits of residential camps for building social skills.

Sustainable Outcomes for Campers

At CPBC campers grow physically, spiritually, and socially:

- Chapel services that kids love!
- Time in God's Word with cabin groups
- Outstanding trained counselors who really care
- Physical activities promote fitness
- Arts options promote creativity
- Making quality friends
- Healthy meals cooked on site

Parents feel right about sending kids to Covenant Pines ... because they can't get this combination of benefits just anywhere!



Introducing camp's new culinary staff: Certified Executive Chef Jim Mace (right), and Sous Chef Chris Proctor, a recent graduate of Le Cordon Bleu Culinary School.

See Chef Jim's column on page 2.

Camper Scholarship Dinners

Nel and Jerome Smith, along with many friends and volunteers, have been cooking and hosting a Taste of the South Dinner at Redeemer Covenant Church for the past 12 years to raise funds for camper scholarships. Due to their hearts for reaching students and their on-going efforts, many campers have been able to attend Covenant Pines Bible Camp. Other students have been able to invite friends who are new to camp.

Nel & Jerome's dream has been to expand—adding more dinners in order to enable more children to hear about Jesus Christ at Covenant Pines' youth camps. This spring, there will be four scholarship dinners held, with more requests being made for 2010!

If you would like to attend a “Taste of the South Dinner” to help provide scholarships for campers, choose one of these options:

- **TASTE OF THE SOUTH**
– Sunday, March 1, 12 noon at First Covenant Church, St. Paul



- **TASTE OF THE SOUTH**
– Sunday, March 29, 1 p.m. at Redeemer Covenant Church
- **TASTE OF ITALY**
– Sunday, May 2, 6 p.m. at Bloomington Covenant Church

Invitations can be downloaded from www.covenantpines.org or requested by

email at covpines@aol.com. Reservations are required. Proceeds go to Covenant Pines' scholarship fund.

If your church would like to host a similar event in 2010, please contact your Camp Board member or Bruce Peterson, CPBC executive director, at (651) 766-6876.

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Back to the basics

By Josh Rude
Camp Director

Sigurd Olson once wrote, "While we are born with curiosity and wonder and our early years full of the adventure they bring, I know such inherent joys are often lost. I also know that, being deep within us, their latent glow can be fanned to flame again by awareness and an open mind."

My 6-month-old son, Ezra, is full of curiosity and wonder, which can be seen in his crawling, climbing, and putting nearly everything in his mouth. It is a joy to watch him play as he

learns and figures out objects and develops new skills. What may appear in his playing to be simple and obvious to me, is actually quite complex and an adventure to him.

In our own lives, what may seem simple and obvious (and possibly dull) has not necessarily come to this point because of our great skill, maturing or aging. But that we have begun to overlook the adventures that an activity may have. It may be that curiosity, wonder and adventure have been replaced with the focus on the daily schedule, meetings and tasks. It may also be that the joy in our



"Each summer is filled with opportunities for youth to join in worship, and ... share their curiosity and wonder, and to look at this life in Christ as an adventure and a gift."

life with Christ has been diluted in our

minds to the point that church meetings, weekly services and unwillingness to ask questions has become our main focus.

I recently played a game of broomball with a group of parents. We had fun. We were moms and dads, doctors and business people, camp staff and teachers ... all people with schedules—people who can

often ignore finding time to play. With a little ice, a game and some great conversations and laughter we were brought once again the enjoyment of curiosity and wonder, full of adventure.

Covenant Pines Bible Camp provides a place for people of all ages to grow in Christ, experience God's love, and to play. Each summer is filled with opportunities for youth to join in worship, and to be allowed the space to share their

curiosity and wonder, and to look at this life in Christ as an adventure and a gift. Camping ministry can never be underestimated. The same holds true for family camps and weekend retreats. In camping ministry we are reminded of our location within Christ. It is where our dimming flame of curiosity and wonder is fanned so we may once again, no matter our age, look at this life as an adventure.

Meet Chef Jim

As camp's culinary staff, our goal is to prepare good quality home-cooked meals with fresh ingredients and a little touch of creative flair. In addition to our usual breakfast menus, breakfasts will now also have fresh cut melons and a citrus bowl, homemade sweets, fresh breads and rolls. This summer we will also be adding different serving styles to make your experience even better; including cafeteria, buffet and plate service.

Our hope is that you come to camp and have a real dining experience that relieves your hunger so you can concentrate on what the Lord has in store for you here at Covenant Pines. In the future we may host retreats focused on the culinary arts. If you may have an interest in this program, please e-mail me to express your interest. Your input is essential!

Just a quick note about me: I have been in the kitchen since I was 12 years old. That means I have 42 years in the culinary profession and I have been a chef since I turned 18. My wife Betti, daughter Sarah, and I have been in Christian camping ministries for the past 10 years across the United States.

In Christ, Chef Jim

kitchen@covenantpines.org



Explore, Embark, Engage

By Nick Youngberg
Program Director

Camp, the final frontier. Join us this summer for **The Voyage**. It's our summer mission: to **Explore** our gifts from God, to **Embark** into the world and to **Engage** God's people—to boldly go where no camper has gone before!

Youth campers, high school campers and family campers—join us this summer as we prepare for **The Voyage** at Covenant Pines Bible Camp. First Peter 4:10 tells us that "God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them so that God's generosity can flow through you."



As a staff we look forward to challenging campers both young and old:

» to **Explore** the many gifts, talents, abilities and uniqueness that God has blessed us with. We will take time to discover and **Explore** how God has made each of us unique and special. We want to equip campers with the tools to help them better understand who God is and what he wants to do in and through them on a daily basis.

» to prepare to **Embark**, to head out into the world where we can **Engage** God's people. We want campers to know that God has uniquely made each of us for a purpose, and we are called to use gifts that we have been blessed with for the good of God's Kingdom!

Our hope is that you and your family will join us on **The Voyage** as we prepare to **Explore, Embark and Engage**. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

FRIENDS OF COVENANT PINES

Thank you to these ministry supporters who gave gifts of \$500 or more during 2008:

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Gerald & Lois Zimmermann
Louie Voigt

In addition, many more donors gave in-kind gifts & monetary gifts under \$500 in 2008. All sizes & kinds of ministry gifts are appreciated!
For more info about becoming a Friend of Covenant Pines, see www.covenantpines.org/giving and click on "Friends of CP."

Residential Camps: Developing beneficial skills

Residential camps help build social skills and interpersonal skills in ways that school settings can't, according to studies by the Search Institute and the American Camp Association.

These studies examined the dynamics of positive youth development in four domains: social skills, physical and thinking skills, positive identity and spiritual growth. Post camp evaluations by parents and campers "indicated statistically significant growth in all four domains ... the growth that occurred during

camp was more than would be expected by maturation alone, suggesting that camp accelerated growth."

Source: "Sorting of What Makes a Difference: Youth Development Findings from Camp Settings," by Hederson, Scanlin, Thurber and Bialeschki [Oct. 2007] edition of Search Institute's Insight's & Evidence 4(1). Copyrighted 2007 by Search Institute, Minneapolis, MN. A free download of 11 page report available online at www.Search-Institute.org/research/Insights.

Leaders-In-Training

Each summer about 15 or more students participate in the 2-week-long Leaders-In-Training program. This leadership development program provides direct training, mentorship and individualized supervision to help students entering grades 10-12 to become future leaders.

Their first week is spent observing and learning; during their second week, LITs are given more responsibility in cabin leadership.

LITs share what they gained:

"I've been going to this camp all my life and want to be a counselor here someday. So the first step is to serve as an LIT."

"Getting chosen to be an LIT is like learning how to get a job. You fill out an application and get two people to write a recommendation; then you wait to see if you get accepted."

"The best part for me was seeing the faith of the campers; hearing all of their questions was fascinating and



Sisters Amy and Kayla loved being in the LIT program.

caused me to grow more in God. I became more aware of His love for me."

"Being an LIT helped me see another side of camp. Instead of being the ones getting help, we were able to give help to campers."

"People should think about being an LIT if they want to get closer and deeper with God and grow in their faith."

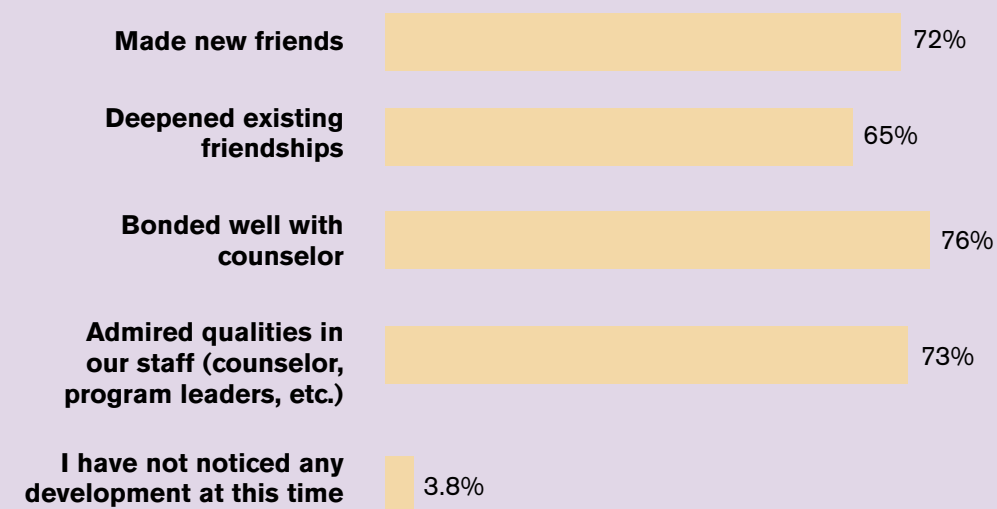
"Now that I've finished LIT, I'm ready to come back to camp and serve as a Jr. Counselor!"

Get an application for Leaders-In-Training, by going to Camp's web site; under the "Youth" tab choose "Jr. Staff."

CPBC Parent Survey

Covenant Pines Bible Camp, responses to 2008 Parent Evaluations showed high levels of perceived social skill development.

Q: Our hope is to assist your child in developing healthy friendships. After your child's camp session you have noticed he/she has (check all that apply):



Help needed at Camp this Spring

Individuals or groups of up to eight people can offer a weekend of their time between March and May to come to camp and help with the many on-going projects. The three-stall garage was recently moved to a space behind the dining hall. Now, help is needed in converting this building into condo-style housing for the staff.

Continuing into the spring, a new cabin will be built at the Silver Beach area. If you have a skill or talent in any area of construction including: carpentry, drywall, electrical work, plumbing, carpet installation or willing/helping hands, then please see a schedule of anticipated needs by going to www.covenantpines.org/info. Under "Relevant Links" click on Lofts Volunteer



Work Schedule.

We have many other needs around camp including: painting, splitting and hauling wood, and cleaning and organizing. As you offer your services, Covenant Pines will provide housing and meals. Your assistance as co-laborers is appreciated as we strive together to serve God and minister to people.

Gatheragroupofyourfriends



and schedule a weekend by contacting Sarah in the Camp Office at (218) 768-2610, or e-mail retreat@covenantpines.org with "Volunteer" in the subject line.

Spring and summer options at



ADVENTUROUS CHRISTIANS
COVENANT WILDERNESS CENTER

Adventurous Christians. Grand Marais, MN. A place you'll experience God's power and majesty!

Family excursions on the North Shore Area? Stay at AC!

While your family is in the Lake Superior/North shore area, come stay at an AC cabin for a night or two! Families (or large family groups) can enjoy a rustic wilderness cabin in July or August. Limited availability; but a golden opportunity for your family to learn about God in nature! Canoe use, sauna and more!

Fish 'N Fellowship

Adventurous Christians
Fishing led by AC staff guides
May 15-17, 2009

SUPER SWEAT

Teens' week of service at AC – first night at Covenant Pines
June 30-July 5, 2009 or August 17-22, 2009

Voyageur Highway Experience

Young adults/teens canoeing expedition
August 2-8, 2009

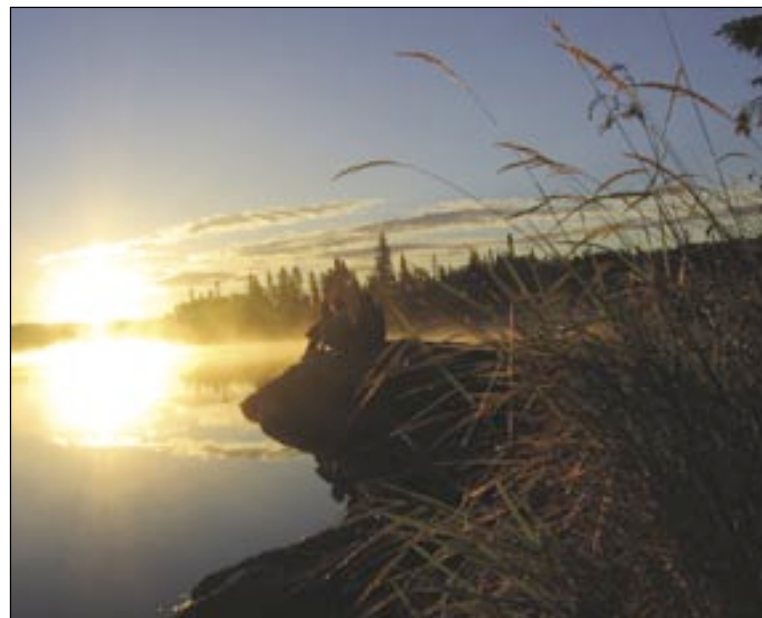
Soothing Waters Women's Canoe Trip

4 days in the Boundary Waters
August 20-25, 2009

Women Ministries Canoe Trip

All women in NW Conference invited
Sleep in cabins
September 16-18, 2009

Check out these opportunities on AC's Web site www.adventurouschristians.org. Book a canoe trip with our trained guides by calling (218) 388-2286.



Golf Tournament raises funds for Camp!

The 15th Annual Covenant Pines Golf Tournament will be held at Crystal Lake Golf Course in Lakeville, MN, on Wednesday, June 3, 2009. A noon meal will be served and a shotgun start is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. A clubhouse dinner and awards presentation will follow the tournament. Sign up soon because last year this tourney filled up!



Covenant Pines. In the past, funds have helped this ministry in the following ways:

- reduced debt from the dining hall construction
- scholarships to sent kids to camp, and
- helped with the development of the Silver Beach Family Area.

Covenant Pines has teamed with Abound Ministries to help expand the fundraising. Golfers are being encouraged to find individual sponsors for each hole. Prizes will be given for those raising the most funds!

Last year, camp ministry funds raised by golfers who participated in the golf tournament was about \$15,000. We hope to double that in 2009.

Funds raised by the Golf Tournament will again be used to help support the ministry of

Register yourself or your foursome on camp's Web site—under the "Adults & Family" section, you'll see a tab for "Golf Tourney". For questions contact Bruce Peterson at (651) 766-6876.



Father/Child Retreat: a Good Investment of Time

April 24 – 26

In the special setting of camp, kids love getting time with their dads, and dads get the consecrated time they always wish they could find to spend with them!

"My kids love this retreat so much that they start begging me the day after we leave, if we'll be able to go again next year!" says Tom

Graffunder, father of four from Bloomington. "Together we enjoy the good food, chapel, crafts, gym time, carpet ball, and ... well, everything at this retreat!"

Tom and his kids, ranging from ages 6 to 14, return year after year. He even promotes this retreat to others at his church. His advice to other dads: "Do it!"

CPBC 2009 Calendar | Invite your friends!

Family Camps 2009

ALL TYPES OF FAMILIES WELCOME!

Work & Worship.....May 22-25
 July.....July 2-5
 August.....Aug. 20-23

Program Retreats

JH Discipleship.....March 6-8
 Scrap 'N' Stamp.....April 17-19
 Father/Child.....April 24-26
 Fishing Opener.....May 8-10
 Man Camp.....Nov. 20-22
 Womens Retreat I.....Sept. 18-20
 Womens Retreat II.....Sept. 25-27
 Retired Adults.....Sept. 29-Oct. 1
 Quilters Retreat.....Nov. 13-15
 College/Career.....Dec. 29-Jan. 1, 2009

Summer Camps 2009

Kids Kamp (Entering Grades 2-3)

June 29-July 1

Pathfinders (Entering Grades 3-4)

June 12-14

Trailblazer Camps (Entering Grades 4-6)

Group 1.....June 15-20
 Group 2.....July 13-18
 Group 3.....July 27-Aug. 1

Junior High Camps (Entering Grades 7-9)

Group 1.....July 6-11
 Group 2.....July 20-25
 Group 3.....Aug. 3-8

Senior High Camps (Entering Grades 9-12)

Group 1.....June 22-27 Group 2.....Aug. 10-15

Leaders in Training (Entering Grades 10-12)

LIT 1: June 15-20, July 6-11
 LIT 2: July 13-18, July 20-25
 LIT 3: July 27-Aug. 1, Aug. 3-8

SWEAT Teams (Entering Grades 9-12)

SWEAT 1: June 15-20 SWEAT 5: July 20-25
 SWEAT 2: June 22-27 SWEAT 6: July 27-Aug. 1
 SWEAT 3: July 6-11 SWEAT 7: Aug. 3-8
 SWEAT 4: July 13-18 SWEAT 8: Aug. 10-15
 Super SWEAT 1: June 15-20 Super SWEAT 2: June 22-27
 SWEAT Teams at Covenant Pines / SuperSWEAT at Adventurous Christians

Session Groups | 35 Evangelical Covenant churches in Twin Cities

Students & friends from anywhere welcome to come!

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Senior High 1	Senior High 2
Brookdale Community Edina Excelsior First, Mpls Fridley Laotian Living Stones Plymouth Redeemer Sanctuary The Well	Bethany, Stwtr Emmanuel Fairview First, St Paul Maple Grove Maplewood Rice Creek Roseville Salem True Light	Abbey Way Anoka Bethany, Rfld Bethlehem Bloomington CrossRoads, CG CrossRoads, Eagan Crosstown Emmaus Road Faith Good Shepherd The Compass	Anoka, Brookdale Community Emmaus Road Emmanuel, Fairview First, Mpls Good Shepherd Laotian, B. Park Maple Grove, Maplewood Plymouth, Rice Creek Roseville, Salem The Well	Abbey Way, Bethany, Rfld. Bethany, Stillwater Bethlehem, Bloomington CrossRoads, CG Crossroads, Eagan Crosstown, Edina Excelsior, Faith Fridley, Living Stones Redeemer, Sanctuary The Compass, True Light

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 office@covenantpines.org • Twin Cities Office: (651) 766-6876

CAMPwishlists

Covenant Pines Bible Camp strives to maintain quality equipment. Items often need replacing and our program/ministry needs often change. You'll find our Wish List also on our web site where it's updated frequently. Used items can only be accepted in good condition. Before bringing a donated item to camp, please check with the camp office. We thank you for praying for our staff, volunteers and our guest groups.

VOLUNTEERneeds

- Converting the three-stall garage into staff housing: *Carpentry, Drywall installation, Plumbing, Electrical work*
- Splitting and hauling wood
- Cleaning and organizing
- Painting

PROGRAMwishes

- DVD player
- Hand Tools
- Sheets - especially twin fitted
- Power Tools
- Floor Lamps
- Color Printer
- Fishing Equipment/Tackle

PRAYERneeds

- Campers inviting friends to come with them to hear the Gospel
- Parents and churches being committed to giving their students the gift of a Bible Camp experience in spite of economic challenges
- Scholarship Dinners - March 29 and May 2
- Camp Office staff during busy spring registration months

LARGEitems

- Dressers
- Skid Steer
- New ski boat
- 8' folding tables
- Golf Carts
- Pontoon Trailer
- Large Screen TV
- Outdoor Swings and Chairs
- Nice folding chairs
- Used Vehicles (we sell them and use the funds for camp)