



BAY SHORE CAMP

& FAMILY MINISTRIES

FALL 2016

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A Message from the Director



The Bay Shore Camp summer season is coming to end. God is doing amazing things in this place. Lives are being changed. 1228 campers attended camp at Bay Shore this summer. They are from all over the Thumb of Michigan, from Pt. Austin to Lapeer, from Sebewaing to Sandusky and everywhere in between. They are from all over the State, from Sault Ste. Marie, to Sterling Heights and from Houghton Lake to Hudsonville. They are from beyond the borders of Michigan, from Columbia, South Carolina to Camarillo, California, from Ontario, Canada to Yuma, Arizona and from Dubuque, Iowa to Palm Bay, Florida. Many of our campers are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation campers at Bay Shore continuing a family heritage at Bay Shore. And many are 1st generation campers beginning a legacy for their future families.

Our campers come from some of the more than 200 churches that support Bay Shore by sending us campers and counselors and monetary support.

They attend Methodist Churches, Presbyterian Churches and Baptist Churches.

They attend Catholic Churches, Lutheran Churches, Missionary Churches.

They attend Non-Denominational Churches and some attend no church at all. And we're excited that we're here for those campers who attend no church at all. How else would they meet Jesus?

“ Camp is holy ground. Camp is the church outside of the building. Camp is kids from different congregations and cities coming together to worship and serve, to learn and love. It should not be a peripheral ministry, but one central to who and what the church claims to be. Camp is the body of Christ. — Kira Schlesinger, Ministry Matters

This year's Family Camp speaker, Tom Harmon reminded us that there is only One Gospel. Isn't it awesome! Children and youth from all over the Michigan and beyond, and kids from every church (and no church at all,) can come to this place to hear the Gospel and respond to it! Every summer, some of our campers make their first time commitment to Christ in this place. Every summer, hundreds of campers renew their commitment to Christ in this place. And every year, there are a few who aren't quite ready to claim Jesus as their own, but they've heard the Gospel message. Lives are being changed here at Bay Shore!

All of this is possible because of the many people who sacrifice much so that campers can come to know Christ in this place. Bay Shore has ten year round staff to support the operation of this ministry. And in the summer, our staff grows to nearly 40 with the addition of our seasonal staff. We're thankful for the hundreds of volunteers who serve each summer. Their commitment and passion is inspiring. Lives are being changed here at Bay Shore!

We're thankful to our financial donors. Their gifts, no matter the size, are vital to this ministry. Their generosity is overwhelming.

I'm often asked, "How's it going?" 1228 campers attended camp at Bay Shore this summer. That's about 100 kids fewer than last year. While I'm disappointed that we had a drop in enrollment, we're aware that it was largely related to an extended school year due to snow days and other things beyond our control.

While we're thankful for our many volunteers. It's a struggle every year to find enough to make camp possible for our campers. This year was no different and we almost had to consider cancelling a camp event for lack of volunteer deans, counselors and nurses.

I have been constantly amazed at the generosity of Bay Shore financial supporters, but this year, giving to our general fund for operations and campership funds are both significantly behind where they need to be to support the need, and I'd like to ask if you would consider partnering with us. Here are 3 ways you can do that right now!

1. Can you commit to getting more kids to camp next summer?
2. Can you volunteer? There are so many opportunities all year round.
3. Can you support the ministry financially with a first time gift or an increased gift?

In spite of these struggles, lives are being changed at Bay Shore! Bay Shore Camp is holy ground. Bay Shore Camp is the church outside of the building. Bay Shore Camp is people from different congregations and cities coming together to worship and serve, to learn and love. Bay Shore Camp is the body of Christ. Bay Shore Camp is here to share the One True Gospel.

Aren't you glad we're here!

Peace and Blessings,

Jeff



Amby's Lodge is Finished!

"AMEN!"

Bay Shore Camp & Family Ministries is so blessed to have so many faithful donors. Every gift, no matter the size, is vital to the ministry. The most generous gift that Bay Shore has received, established an endowment that supports the ministry from its proceeds. The proceeds from that endowment are used to underwrite camper fees, it supports capital improvements and program development and it helps underwrite the cost of health insurance for the year round staff. To acknowledge this amazing gift, the Amby Lodge has been built.

Thank you, Elmer J. Krauss, (aka "Amby" to his friends) for this tremendous gift. We hope you somehow know that Bay Shore's camp family is grateful that you cared about what we do --and why.

While the Lodge was designed for use as a stand-alone retreat center, its summertime purpose is to provide safe comfortable housing for seasonal staff. The young men and women currently in residence are delighted with their "digs".

The Lodge is complete on one floor with dormitory-style wings for boys and girls. Each room is equipped with a set of "bunk beds plus one" making a total of three single beds, all of which are extra-long. This, according to Director Jeff Parsons, "takes care of the 6'5" college kid who usually has to sleep curled up to fit in bed."

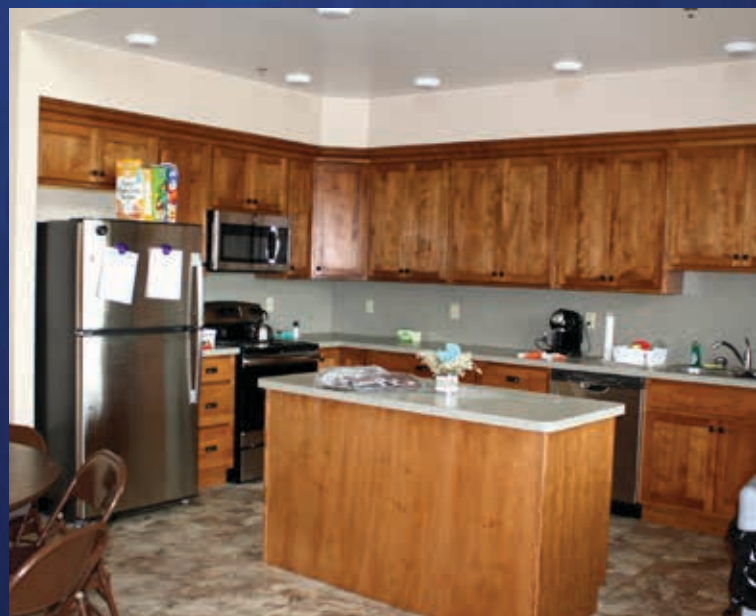
There's a large window with blinds in each room, and a full bathroom with shower. A couple of small tables and lamps complete the

furnishings.

A good-size common area with TV and lounge furniture separates the two halls, ending with full access to a large fully-equipped kitchen. The entire facility is handicap-accessible, and two rooms are equipped with handicapper accommodations.

During construction, camp officials tried to keep local businesses in the financial loop. They used local contractors when possible and purchased laundry room washers and dryers and kitchen appliances nearby.

All of the wood used for door frames, window trim, etc. was milled from trees felled at Bay Shore.



Meet the New Program Director

Matthew Chisholm



It's a homecoming of the very best kind. Veteran Bay Shore camper and summer staffer Matthew Chisholm has agreed to become Bay Shore's new Program Director. He replaces Christine Harbin who served as Interim Program Director, "keeping us on task and moving forward," said Jeff Parsons, Executive Camp Director.

Matt is a 2014 graduate of Asbury University in Wilmore, KY where he studied Youth Ministry and Elementary Education. His resume lists a 10-month career as a painter before joining Versailles UMC staff as a youth pastor in June of 2015.

The youngest of seven children, Matt is the son of Rev. Devin and Yvette Chisholm who served many years at Standish UMC. Rev. Chisholm also served many years on Bay Shore's Board.

Matt and Rachel are both 24 years of age, and excited to be moving to Michigan. He feels he already has a good handle on his job description, thanks to experience earned by working three summers on Bay Shore's program staff during his college years.

"I expect to be hiring and training summer staff," said Matt, "coordinating with different teams to help manage their schedules, facilitate activities for retreats and just be a general resource/reference person."

Rachel expects to be job hunting once they are settled. She studied business administration and equine management at Asbury. She's loved horses all of her life.

Together, Matt and Rachel parent one Dutch Shepherd dog named "Lucy," and a cat named "Gigi." They also look after approximately 10 chickens (names unknown), but the hens will not be making the move.

When not involved in camp activities, Matt hopes to pursue his many interests: gardening, leatherwork, blacksmithing, carpentry and (especially) the study of architecture. Together, he and Rachel are looking forward to canoeing on Saginaw Bay, sunning on Caseville's beaches and trips to the Dairy Barn in Sebawaing.





FREE FAMILY FUN DAYS IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 7th and 8th

An autumn version of Family Fun Days is ready to roll out the first weekend in October at Bay Shore Camp. Moms and dads, pencil in Friday, October 7 - Saturday, October 8 for a weekend of free fun for all ages.

Camping will be free that weekend; bring your RV camper or tent. Registrations are recommended, but not required. Check-in begins at 3pm. Families are welcome to stay over until Sunday, but the camp events end Saturday evening.

The fun starts on Friday night with mini-golf, Laser Tag and a new game, Arrow Tag. While this game is not for young children, older children and adults will enjoy the combination of dodgeball, paintball and archery. Bows, special large rubber-tipped arrows, safety helmets and protective face masks are provided. The evening ends with a community campfire and s'mores.

Saturday morning starts off with cider and donuts, then mini-golf, giant inflatable toys, pumpkin painting, a scavenger hunt and hay rides. Camp tours are available and the book store is open from 10am-4pm,

A hot dog lunch is free. Afternoon recreation will include the zip-line from 2-4pm with Laser and Arrow Tag available from 6-8pm. Bay Shore's Barrel 'O Fun Train will be tour the camp throughout Saturday.

Call Bay Shore's Welcome Center at 989-883-2501 for more information.

Merry Christmas!

LIVING NATIVITY DECEMBER 3rd

If you can possibly arrange it, set aside time to drive through Bay Shore Camp's Living Nativity from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Saturday, December 3rd. This is a wonderful experience to share with the whole family, young and old alike.

From the comfort of your car, you will experience events like those on the night Jesus was born. You can talk with the shepherds, hear the angels, see the Three Kings who traveled so far. Experience how it happened 2000 years ago.

The Nativity ends at the Family Center where all will find warm drinks and refreshments. Children are invited to craft a small Christmas remembrance as a memento.

Volunteers are needed to fill many positions: cast members, craft supervisors, kitchen servers. If you can help, please call 989-883-2501 for more information.





BAY SHORE CAMP
& FAMILY MINISTRIES

Jan. 6-7
Jan. 20-21
Feb. 3-4
Feb. 18
Feb. 24-25
Mar. 17-19
Mar. 24-26
Mar 31-Apr. 2
Apr. 7-8
Apr. 29
May 5-6
May 12-13
May 26-29
Jun. 9-10
Jun. 18-23
Jun. 18-23
Jun. 25-30
Jun. 25-30
Jul. 2-7
Jul. 5-7
Jul. 9-14
Jul. 16-21
Jul. 16-18
Jul. 19-21
July 23-28
Jul. 29-Aug.4
Aug. 6-11
Aug. 6-11
Aug. 6-11
Aug. 24-27
Sep. 15-17
Sep.23
Sep. 30
Oct. 6-7
Oct. 13-15
Oct. 27-29
Dec. 2

2017 CAMP CALENDAR

Senior High Winter Blast
Elem/Jr. High Winter Blast
Mother/Daughter Retreat
Camp Coordinators' Workshop
Deans' Retreat
Counselor Training
Spring Scrapbookers' Retreat
Spring Quilters' Retreat
Men's Retreat
Annual Benefit Auction
Spring Work Bee
Father/Son Catfish Tournament
Memorial Day Family Weekend
Spring Family Fun Days
Jr. High Camp
Fishing Camp
Soccer Camp
Basketball Camp
Junior Music Camp
Primary Camp
Senior High Camp
Primary Plus
Teddy Bear Camp 1
Teddy Bear Camp 2
Junior Camp
Family Camp
Baseball Camp
Softball Camp
Worship Arts Camp
Lloyd Severance Thumb Gospel
Women of Excellence Conference
A Celebration Banquet
Ladies Day
Fall Family Fun Days
Scrapbookers' Retreat
Fall Quilters' Retreat
Living Nativity



A Letter from the President

Over the last year, I've spent a fair amount of time at camp, just watching and listening, being amazed by the nonstop activity. Summer staff, year-round staff -- so much is accomplished, yet there is always more to do. I'm convinced that volunteers are critical to our daily function.

I'm an optimist. Though our camper numbers and revenue are both down slightly from last year, the youngsters who came experienced excellent ministry. Only God knows who and how many went home with new or deeper faith in Christ.

The Community Swim hours are bringing in new people, some of whom live nearby, but have no idea what Bay Shore Camp really is. They're learning. Occasionally, I run into someone I knew long ago and we have our own little reunion. God is so good to put these "perks" in my path.

With our 2016 camping season complete, Bay Shore will soon shift gears for the coming retreat and rental season. The Board needs to resume work on a few things, including building strong committees, where growth and change begin. Not every new idea becomes reality, but real progress starts here. We also need to take a hard look at our Mission Statement. It was last reviewed in 2005.

As I said, I'm an optimist and I have faith that we will work hard, grow where needed and be ready for 1300+ campers by June of 2017. Until then, I share with you what has become my life verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Susanne



Save the date!

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Looking Ahead to the Auction

Only eight months away, Bay Shore's Annual Benefit Auction needs to start taking shape now. It's not too early to begin accepting donations of good saleable merchandise.

While you are cleaning out your attic, basement, barn or leased storage unit, please think about what you can donate. New, used and antique furniture is popular; quilts and other soft goods, baked goods, framed wall hangings, small appliances in good working order, good quality glassware, etc.

All proceeds are used to support our campership fund to help kids to attend camp. For more information, call Bay Shore Camp at 989-883-2501.





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