



BAY SHORE CAMP
& FAMILY MINISTRIES



SPRING 2017

PEEK INSIDE...

- **Letter from the Director**
- **“NEW” Mission statement**
- **Amby Lodge after one year of service**
- **Two new staff members**
- **New chairs for the Tabernacle!**

AND MORE...

From the Director – Does Camp Make a Difference?



It's estimated that roughly 2 million children and youth will attend a Christian camp this summer. That number seems impressive, but many people still ask the question, does it make a difference? A recent research project (Effective Camp Research Project) confirms what I already knew. Christian summer camp impacts campers in positive and recognizable ways and these impacts extend to their families, congregations, and others in their supporting networks. Fully, 92% of parents responding to questions in the research survey agreed that the camp experience clearly had an impact on their children. 90% agreed that their child grew in their faith at summer camp.

Today, some of the 2017 Bay Shore Summer Staff arrived to begin their ministry here for the summer. They are evidence of the impact that camp had on their lives. Many of them were nurtured in their faith at Bay Shore Camp. Many of them served as counselors, nurturing young campers in their faith. They've graduated from high school and moved on to college. They have discerned the call to be in ministry for the summer at Bay Shore where they will continue to be a witness for Jesus!

They're going to work hard this summer. There will be long, long days and seemingly, short, short nights. There will be both hot and sweaty and cold and rainy days. They'll prepare and eat the same meals every week. Some will be their favorites, other meals, not so much. They'll get a gazillion mosquito bites.

In this first day at camp, they're excited to be here! I can see it in their eyes! And they're anticipating the day the first camper arrives and they get to show them Jesus, helping them grow in their faith.

Last year, 1228 campers attended camp at Bay Shore. Roughly 2 million will attend a Christian camp this summer. Our goal is 1438 campers. There's still time for you to help us meet that goal.

Find two children or youth, who've never attended camp before and help them get registered. Contribute to our Campership Fund, so we can help kids who otherwise would not be able to attend camp. And pray! Pray for our campers, our volunteers, summer staff and year round staff.

Peace and Blessings,

Jeff

P.S. How was your life impacted at Bay Shore? Will you share your story?

BAY SHORE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING SET

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Bay Shore Camp Association has been set for July 30, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Tabernacle. Everyone who has paid a \$1 fee for official membership in this organization is encouraged to attend.

This meeting is intentionally scheduled to take place during Family Camp. The agenda includes election of Board officers, a report of ministry activity over the past year, and a review of Association finances.



Bay Shore Camp
Association

**JULY
30**

at 2:00 p.m.
in the Tabernacle

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

CAMPERSHIP DOLLARS

KIDS NEEDED CAMP



KIDS NEED TO GO TO CAMP

This is the season when the pace of camp life picks up in anticipation of a single exciting fact: The kids are coming! The kids are coming! And they are going to hear about Jesus.

How many kids? We don't know yet, but it's sure to be over 1,200. Even more will come if they can be helped with financial aid in the form of camperships.

Camperships do one thing: they make it possible for kids to come to summer camp. While our camp fee structures have changed greatly, encouraging kids to invite their friends, encouraging parents to volunteer, there are still scores of youngsters who never get to the camp gate because they and/or their parents believe they just can't afford it.

But camperships can make summer camp happen for most of those kids.

Camperships come from one place, from adults who know the power and potential impact of Christian camping on the lives of young people. That's you. Please help.

Bay Shore's Campership Fund is open for donation every day of the year. Donors may send funds by check or money order directly to the camp office at 450 N. Miller Street, Sebawaing, MI 48759.

You can also donate online by going to the camp website: bayshorecamp.org and clicking on the "Get Involved" button at the upper right.

Please do God a big favor this summer. Send a kid to camp. He will be glad you did. So will you, and so will that camper and his family. Plant a good seed in someone's life. It will surely grow.



**HOW MANY KIDS?
WE DON'T KNOW
YET, BUT IT'S SURE
TO BE OVER
1,200 CAMPERS!**



**HELP US SEND
MORE KIDS TO
CAMP...
PLEASE DONATE
TODAY!**



NEW GUEST SERVICES DIRECTOR

Kim Deneen

weekend sessions as well.

It's been a "full-circle journey" for Kim to her present position. Senior High Camp was her last stop as a camper. Ten years later, she was the mother of a new camper. That led to volunteering and eventually to joining the camp staff, first in housekeeping, then as office support.

A new item in Kim's job description is seeking out "non-traditional" groups as potential clients. These are demographic groups generally too young or too old for the work force and looking for rental facilities available Monday through Thursday.

"These could be younger retirees, stay-at-home moms (or dads) or even home-schoolers," said Kim. "We just have to find out where they are and what they like to do."

A lifelong Sebewaing resident, Kim is married to Steve Deneen, another Bay Shore alumnus, and mothers three youngsters:

Breanna, 21, an Oakland University junior who would love to work at a camp someday; Tyler, 19, a Saginaw Valley State freshman interested in teaching; and Isabelle, 17, a Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School junior already studying culinary arts.

For more information on programming and facilities available to rental/retreat groups, contact Kim at: guestservices@bayshorecamp.org.



Kim Deneen

When you're blessed with an employee who is good at one job, it's always wise to grow them into another. Kim Deneen is a good example.

Kim has been named Guest Services Director and Camp Host for groups renting retreat facilities. She will also work with committees for the Quilt and Crafters Retreats, hosting those

NEW MARKETING DIRECTOR CONFIRMED **Jeremy Strait**



Jeremy Strait

Meet Jeremy Strait, Marketing Director, who develops everything in the way of information materials for Bay Shore Camp. After a year of wearing an "interim" label, he is now an official member of the year-round staff.

A talented and experienced graphic designer, Jeremy creates all of the printed materials you receive in your postal mailbox. He also updates and maintains Bay Shore's website and Facebook page along with posting to other social media outlets.

Working from his rural home, Strait stays in touch with camp staff by phone and e-mail. During summer

camp, he makes a weekly three-hour commute to Sebewaing for meetings, and to generally check the pulse of what's happening at camp.

"It works," said Camp Director Parsons. "The arrangement works well, and he's a good fit for our staff."

Jeremy and his wife, Amie, live on "sort of a farm" with their four daughters, three sons and an assortment of domestic livestock. The children are: Roca and Isaiah, both age 9; Ana, Selah, age 8; twins Israel and Issac, who are 7 years old; and little Eden, age 5. Of the seven, one is a biological offspring and the rest were adopted out of Michigan's foster care system.

"We always wanted to adopt," explained Jeremy. "Amie and I talked about it a lot before we were married, and it just seemed the natural thing to do when we began to plan our family."

Jeremy has prepared well for a career in camp ministry marketing. Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center was Jeremy's first service in camp ministry. He started as the summer videographer, developed skills and pursued an education, which led to eventually being named Assistant Director. He served faithfully there for 15 years before joining Bay Shore's staff in May of 2016.

He studied web and graphic design

at Kellogg Community College and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Ministry Leadership from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. Strait now teaches video production and multimedia at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and web design at Kellogg Community College, where he attended himself.

All nine members of the Strait family were in residence for Bay Shore's 2016 Family Camp, giving some of their kiddos their very first camping experience.

"We had a lot of fun," said Jeremy, "and we hope to do it again. It's a wonderful way to introduce little ones to the whole concept of camp, yet have mom and dad close by."



“

They knew the Lord loved them, and they loved him back.”



PAUL AND PHYLLIS FINDLAY

Bay Shore lost a very special friend last summer with the passing of Paul Findlay, a Caro-area farmer and lifelong member of the Camp family.

Paul and Phyllis lived a good life with their farm and their church, both of which supported their family. Daughter Carol was called into missionary service and has lived in South Korea, ministering to nurses, for more than 30 years.

The Findlays knew the Lord loved them, and they loved him back. They were blessed with more than they needed, so they shared. They thought of Bay Shore often, and sometimes those thoughts turned into things the camp badly needed, like a pick-up truck. (What a blessing that was!) And sometimes they gave things the camp didn't necessarily need but put to good use --like a pontoon boat. Fishing Camp makes very good use of it.

Paul loved pie and rarely missed the chance to buy whatever pie took first-place at Bay Shore's Annual Auction. The first time he did this, he paid \$700 for a picture-perfect raspberry pie, prompting onlookers to break into thunderous applause. When asked, "Why would you do that?", he replied, "I like raspberries."

Phyllis later told how their family shared the pie for dinner that night. In the morning, Paul had the last piece for breakfast.

A Christmas Eve tradition the Findlays established was making sure Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus called on nearby families. They did this for years and years, leaving behind Christmas candies and shocked wide-eyed kiddies. Even after the kiddies grew into teenagers, the Clauses continued to appear and were always welcome.

Phyllis passed on first. Paul struggled with his grief, then reached out to help others in their own difficulties. To his surprise, he found new love with a dear lady named Pauline. They married and had two happy years together before Paul was called home.

Paul and Phyllis are both genuinely missed. Their kind of generosity is rare and comes only from trusting that God has a plan and they are part of it. They had only to do their part --and God would do the rest.

So they did. And He did. The plan worked beautifully, and countless numbers of God's children were touched at Bay Shore Camp, in their church and probably dozens of other places.

Thank you, Lord, for Paul and Phyllis, and for showing us yet again, You are faithful.

New Mission Statement/Logo Change

Bay Shore has been guided by Mission Statements for years, each one carefully constructed to reflect the overall effort of Bay Shore Camp Association, clearly stating why we do what we do.

Our most recent Mission Statement is the outcome of a Bay Shore Board Retreat held in January of this year. The new statement reads:

Our Mission is to provide an invitation for all people to experience Jesus Christ and to nurture them in their relationship with Him.

Arriving with the new Mission Statement is a change in the camp logo. While it has always reflected the Tabernacle, several other elements have been paired with it over the years: a canoe, the sun/moon, seagulls, a family, etc.

For the immediate future, it was decided to eliminate all of the "other" elements and take the logo back to its original design, just the Tabernacle. Let's see how the Lord will lead us in future use of the logo.



CHAIRS TO REPLACE PEWS IN TABERNACLE

Over the decades, much has changed at Bay Shore Camp. some by choice and some by necessity, but all of it good.

No one objected when the old 1940s cabins began to disappear in favor of new duplex cabins with toilets, hot showers and -- praise God! -- air-conditioning! More improvements, additions and now even a swimming pool. God is so good.

Another improvement is coming to the Tabernacle. Seating choices over a century have gone from tree stumps, to rough planks, to folding chairs, to old church pews and now, to comfortable cushioned chairs.

First introduced with the Tabernacle's west addition, the cushioned chairs have been a hit. They meet the need while providing great flexibility in seating arrangements, and stacking them up makes cleaning so much easier.

After much discussion, the Board has approved a plan to replace all of the remaining old church pews with chairs – hopefully, in time for this year's Family Camp. How can we do this? Here are the facts.

Camp Director Jeff Parsons estimates the need for 450 chairs, and each chair will cost \$50. Donations of any amount will be matched by a fund already on hand for that purpose.

The matching fund starts out at \$14,000 -- not enough to fund the whole project, but enough to encourage everyone to give whatever they can. If you can't buy a chair, you may buy half of a chair, or a quarter. Whatever amount you give will be doubled.

And where did that matching fund come from? Half of it

came from memorial gifts honoring the life of camp family member Paul Findlay who passed away at summer's end last year. (See related article on Findlays.)

And what will happen to the church pews? They will not be destroyed. The camp will try to sell them or find new homes for them or come up with a way to re-purpose the hardwood materials.

To help bring this improvement to the Tabernacle, please send donations to: Tabernacle Chairs, c/o Bay Shore Camp, 450 N. Miller Street, Sebewaing, MI 48759.

You may send your gift in honor of or in memory of someone special. The name of your honoree will be acknowledged and permanently displayed in the Tabernacle.

Questions? Call the camp office at 989-883-2501.



HERITAGE COTTAGE SEVERELY DAMAGED

Last July, a brief forceful windstorm pushed a few trees over at camp. One landed on the south end of Duplex Cabin 1 & 2, doing significant structural damage that had to be repaired immediately. One camp had just checked out and another was coming within 48 hours.

Another huge tree landed on the backside roof of Heritage Cottage, a.k.a. "the Museum," smashing through the roof, then back wall, causing not only major structural damage, but destroying a fair section of the new pine-paneled interior.

For most of a hundred years, the duplex wood frame cabin was known as "Gettel Cottage," and served to house two families at Assembly. One by one, family members moved and/or passed away and eventually the building was donated to the camp for whatever purpose deemed best.

Renamed "Heritage Cottage," the little cabin was considerably spruced up inside and out, then outfitted to display many of Bay Shore's most precious heritage documents and photos. All was done in time for the camp's Centennial Celebration in 2011.

When the storm-driven tree crashed through the back of the cottage roof, it smashed a large west-view window, damaging the sill plate. Photos, books, etc. on display were immediately removed and placed in storage.

While the building will undoubtedly be repaired, camp officials are considering a plan to raise it in order to install a proper foundation, replacing the cement blocks that currently support the structure. A time-line has not yet been established, but whenever the project is taken on, both money and manpower will be needed.

Volunteers and donors are asked to contact Director Jeff Parsons at 989-883-2501.





AMBY LODGE

ONE YEAR LATER

With one full year of operations under its multi-purpose belt, Amby Lodge has proven to be as useful and valuable as was hoped. It was, indeed, “a good build.”

“It’s been excellent,” said Director Jeff Parsons. “This new facility meets all our needs for taking good care of our summer staff --and it’s very attractive as a retreat center, too.”

The Lodge is named in honor of Elmer “Amby” Krauss whose generosity to the camp made it possible to build the new facility, solving a long-standing problem in staff housing.

Summer staff such as the Lifeguards, Food Service workers, Director’s Assistants, etc. have always been required to live on the camp property. But living space was mighty scarce and sometimes college-age employees wound up in areas

that were less than comfortable.

Amby Lodge fixed that problem. It features 13 rooms, each equipped with two or three beds, a shower/bathroom, a couple of small tables and lamps. The building is both air-conditioned and heated.

Another major need was for a place where off-duty employees could gather and “hang out,” yet still be on the grounds. The Lodge features a large common area with lounge furniture, a flat-screen TV and a DVD player. Nearby is a fully-equipped kitchen.

All of this works equally well for retreats and rentals. In fact, one rental group has already reserved six separate weekends on the 2017 calendar.

Director Parsons credits much of the Lodge’s success to the combined efforts of Bay Shore’s Master Plan Committee and The DK Design Group (architects) who specialize

in designing facilities for camps and ministry organizations.

“We didn’t have to do a big fundraising campaign for this one,” said Parsons, “and the camp owns it free and clear. This was something Bay Shore needed badly for many years, and it’s genuinely been a joy to see it become reality.”



TO THE HOLY LAND – ONE MORE TIME!

Holy Land Classic – February 13 - 22, 2018

Another trip to the Holy Land --and perhaps the last from Bay Shore Camp -- is being organized. Executive Camp Director Jeff and Rev. Cindy Parsons again encourage everyone to seriously consider this opportunity to “deepen their faith, broaden their spiritual journey and walk where Jesus walked.”

Travel has been arranged through Educational Opportunities (www.eo.travelwithus.com) flying to Tel Aviv, then traveling by bus within Israel. Participants will be traveling out of the country a minimum of 10 days.

Cost is \$3,296 per person and includes roundtrip international airfare from Detroit, basic touring fees and guided sightseeing. Individuals can expect miscellaneous daily expenses (including lunch) of about \$15 per person.

Optional extensions of the trip are available:

- Cairo and the Route of the Exodus, Feb. 22 - 27
- Wonders of Petra and the Dead Sea, Feb. 22 - 25
- Jerusalem Extended Stay, Feb. 22 - 24

Early registration discounts are available. For a four-page full-color brochure, call the camp office at 989-883-2501.





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JULY 29 - AUGUST 4

BAYSHORECAMP.org



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