

SEYFERT CAMP COMMUNICATOR

Winter 2019

From the President's desk:

I recently looked back at the Camp Communicators we have sent out. Many items of information and many pictures helped keep the Seyfert Camp family informed throughout the year. I also noticed that many bits of news were repetitive. I gave you dates of work days and asked for volunteers. I reminded you of the Founders Fellowship banquet. I gave you the dates of Family Camp and the names of our workers. I told you about projects and kept you updated. I gave you reports on groups using the grounds. And I encouraged you to attend and support our camp.

As I started to compile this Communicator, I told Betsy that I was suffering from writer's block. I couldn't think of anything special or unusual to share. I knew that I would still remind you of upcoming events and ask you to come and support the camp. Because we need new helpers and volunteers.

Recently I was asked, "Who's going to step up and do all the work involved in keeping the camp going? Who will do all the volunteer work? Who will we get when you can't be president? When our cooks retire? When those who do the maintenance and clean the rooms and maintain the lawns and flowers can't do it any more?"

If I could be so bold, I would answer these questions with this response, "God is faithful! He will raise up someone to continue His work." If you will look back over the years, ever since this camp started almost 100 years ago, God has been faithful. There were rough times and lean times. But God always had men and women who stepped up and said, like Isaiah of old, "Here I am. Send me." I believe God already has people lined up to continue the ministries of Seyfert Camp. And He has been bringing in volunteers.

So I am trusting in the faithfulness of God. That's the best thing all of us can do!

Founders Fellowship Banquet

Seyfert Camp is a non-profit organization and its primary function is to provide a place for spiritual worship. Although we do have cottage and trailer site fees, most of our income comes from people who use the camp for worship. When we upgrade or renovate buildings, we totally depend on donations. For the past nineteen years we have had an annual banquet to raise money for operating expenses as well as funding projects.

This twentieth Founders Fellowship Banquet will be held in the Seyfert Camp Dining Hall and the meal will be catered by Big John Nolt's Catering Service. There will be special singing and the camp board will share plans and updates about what we are doing. The meal is free for anyone who loves and appreciates Seyfert Camp, but we hope you will consider giving a generous donation to help us continue improving the grounds and facilities.

The date is April 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon. Please call or email us so we can put your name on the list as soon as possible. 302 875 3266 or pastordht@aol.com.



In 2018 the Dining Hall had major renovations done to it. Here are a few pictures to show some of the improvements we made. Most of the work was done by volunteers and they did a beautiful job!

BEFORE



AFTER



Just some reflections...

Last year I got hearing aids. Working around jet planes when I was in the NAVY did damage to my hearing and I finally had some tests and was told I needed some help. I was amazed when I put those new hearing aids in my ears and started driving home. I heard things I hadn't heard for years. The noise of the air whistling around the car. The wind blowing in the trees. Birds singing. Voices that used to be murmurs were now clear conversations. I could even hear the sound of my shoes shuffling across the carpet.

This got me thinking. There are a lot of sounds that I associate with Seyfert Camp, so again I took a trip down memory lane. For some reason, the first memory was the sound of Blue Jays screaming at each other in the oak trees. Hearing the faint whistle of a train in the distance, and listening to it become louder the closer it got. The sounds of katydids giving their evening serenades in the trees. The sound of the bell on the old dormitory (now behind the tabernacle), calling us to service. Who can forget the little hand-held bell that served two purposes. It was used as the "rising bell" and most of us hated to hear that one. But it was also the bell rung to call us to the dining hall for meals. There were the sounds of laughter and playing. The sounds of the traffic driving by the camp. Sometimes, as they drove by, "irreverent" youths would blow their car horn, trying to disrupt the services. Sometimes we heard the sound of a fire truck or ambulance driving past with its sirens wailing.

A couple other "sounds" came to mind. Years ago, men gathering before evening service to pray on the west side of the camp. (There used to be a dirt road going up there.) We would hear the prayers getting louder and louder. Or walking by a cabin that was having a cottage prayer meeting and hearing earnest entreaties that God would move in the services. Remembering, as a child, learning and singing in Children's Meetings. The camp congregational singing and music - I can't begin to describe it! It would stir your soul and lift your spirits. We also had a small orchestra that played each evening. I heard some of the best evangelists preach with power and unction. I heard people get blessed and praise God. I heard sinners pray for forgiveness as their lives were changed.

There are many other sounds we could add. Some of them are still being made, just as when I was a boy. And there are new ones being made. Church services being held in Spanish. Gospel Blue Grass singing the last Friday night of camp. "Big Wheels" zipping down our new sidewalk. Teens chatting as they scatter on a scavenger hunt. The hum of conversation as people eat at the dining hall deck or visit in the snack store. And sometimes, there is a rare and wonderful time when all conversation and noise fade and the sound of silence takes over for the night. These are all great sounds!

Can you help?

There is an expression that says, "Out of sight, out of mind." For many of our camp family members, Seyfert Camp is far from our thinking at this time of the year. Most thoughts have been about the Thanksgiving holiday and are now turning to the delightful season and preparations for Christmas.

However, at camp, lots of work is continuing right up to the present. The necessary maintenance projects of removing trees and upgrading our electrical service have cut deeply into our finances. Also, we still have monthly operating expenses. Please consider sending a year-end donation to help us through these lean financial months. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

Another way you can help is by volunteering some of your time. John Fleece has a To-Do list of maintenance and improvements around the grounds and it is quite challenging. Little by little we are crossing things from the list but there are quite a few things left to do. Although some jobs must be done by professionals, we need other helpers such as painters, people to move items, to clean buildings inside and out, to power wash, to clean out gutters, and to help install siding. There are numerous other jobs anyone can do.

Work days are scheduled for Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4, 2020. We do have rooms available if you need to stay overnight, so bring your bedding. We will also provide meals both days, as well as coffee and snacks.



Tree Removal Update

In the last Camp Communicator we informed you that some of the old trees at the camp were dying and would be removed. During the week of Thanksgiving the tree service company removed twelve large trees from around camp buildings and cottages. They also dropped four other dangerous trees. Most of them had to be removed by crane. Others need to be sawed up and removed by volunteers.

It is our responsibility to clean up all the limbs and branches, and that is quite a job. We could use some help, and if you could volunteer some time, call Dave Taylor and he will meet you at camp. His number is 302 723 1360.

In this season of the year, we would like to wish our entire camp family a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, be very real to you and guide you as we enter a new decade.

Dan and Betsy Taylor