



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Changing Seasons

As time goes by and the seasons continue to change there are many things that can go unnoticed if we're not careful. There are beautiful leaves that are constantly changing color and letting us know that the trees are anticipating the end of the season. Once the leaves have changed color and expressed themselves in this way they then let go of the tree that they have helped to nourish for the last seven or eight months to start something new.

As I have walked to and from camp in the last weeks I have noticed that with the changing colors of the leaves there are also pines that are shedding some of their needles that coat certain portions of our paths. Each plant is working in its own way to get ready for what is next. They each have their own system which has proven itself time and time again as the best thing for them to survive winter and come back strong in the spring. How amazing creation is when I actually take time to think about the many complexities.

I think it is fair to say that even in our lives there are seasons. There are times in which we recognize that we are entering a new chapter in our journey. These times often mean that we need to reflect on what has helped us through the last chapter and see how those things fit into the new chapter. Sometimes, some pretty tough adjustments have to be made and reflecting is not always easy or enjoyable.

My family and I have had to do this over the last few months as we have entered into life here at Camp Friedenswald. As we have been working to make Camp our new home we recognize things we have left behind. At the same time there is lots of excitement of being here. Our children are entering into this chapter of new friends, school, and house to call home. We are all excited to enter into this new season in our lives.

Here at camp we are changing seasons in a couple different ways. As I am writing this we have our last Outdoor Education group of the fall. It has been a good season with lots of energy for the nature we find ourselves in the middle of here at camp. We are anticipating our Men's Retreat in November and then we will be gaining energy for the coming Winter Youth Retreat weekends starting in January.

The other seasonal changes that I see are with the projects that we are striving toward in the next several months. Some of these are chosen, some are not, but all will bring a new season and a new chapter in the rich history of Camp Friedenswald. Join me on the inside to see what we as staff and you as supporters need to be talking about, praying about, and gaining energy for, as we work together to usher in a new chapter here in the Peaceful Woods.



Weekend Lodge Openings

November 17-19:	Tamarack
December 1-3:	Sycamore
December 8-10:	Sycamore
December 15-17:	Sycamore
February 9-11:	Sycamore
February 16-18:	Sycamore
February 23-25:	Tamarack and Sycamore

Contact Portia (269-476-9744) or visit our website (www.friedenswald.org) for reservations or more information.



Senior Retreat participants learned more about the underground railroad in this area by visiting Chain Lake Baptist Church near Camp.

WELCOME KELCIE DORSING



I am an Anderson University student finishing up a year of voluntary service. Earlier this year I worked at an MDS site in Newton, Texas, for a few months and I decided to get a different angle of voluntary service this fall. So, with the suggestion of my pastor, here I am in Michigan working with kids of varying ages, mainly helping them with teamwork and communication skills in the Outdoor Learning Program. Since music performance is my major at AU, working with younger children isn't exactly my cup of tea, but I love a good challenge. And since I grew up on a cherry farm in the state of Washington, I definitely have a love of the outdoors. My experiences have been amazing thus far and I hope God has more volunteer opportunities waiting for me.

Hurdles in Changing Seasons

As we journey together through what the new season here at camp is going to mean, you will recognize that several of the items are interrelated with the others. This definitely brings challenge to how we can work at each one of them individually and the order in which they may need to occur.

Finances of Camp

Overall we have had a great year of camping. Most of our program camp numbers are up which is exciting. We have seen several cases in which we had a child come to camp with their Outdoor Education Program through public schools and because of their experience here they return for summer camp. What a great way to continue getting new people here to enjoy our setting and learn more about, or perhaps start a new faith journey.

Along with the great season of summer camps came the news that, because of staffing needs on their end, Inner City Impact was not going to be coming this year. This put a definite dent in the end of our summer activity as well as the budget. We believe in this mission group to inner city children and have worked to make sure they are invited to return next year but this would be another place where an increase in giving would help with this hurdle in the operational budget.

Cabin Renovation Project

As most of you know we are in the process of raising funds to build five new cabins in the girls' cabin area. At this point we have funding for two cabins and are still working toward the other three. We were hoping to break ground on whatever cabins we had funded this fall but because of some of the other hurdles we are encountering, we have decided now to wait until next year, hopefully in the spring, to hit the ground running on these.

I also wanted to let you all know that we are getting to the point in time in which we will start calling the cabins by their permanent names. If you have ideas for these names feel free to email them to me here at camp and we can start working through the process of assigning these to the remaining five cabins. To refresh your memories, the first cabin that is already built is called White Pine.



Sewer Project

The Porter Township has been working hard in our immediate area to run a sewer system around the lakes to keep the habitats clean and healthy. This is definitely something that I think is a good idea with our emphasis and passion for keeping nature as intact as possible. The situation we find ourselves in is that it has come time for us to hook up to the system they now have up and running. The original loose estimates that Todd and the board were presented with led them to understanding the main infrastructure through our grounds would cost around \$50,000. Through the several quotes I have received, the sewer is going to cost closer to \$95,000 to \$100,000. The timing of when this needs to happen would be best to coordinate with the cabins being built.

The best case would be that we would have the sewer up and running before we have the first cabin completed. This would eliminate the extra costs and work that would go into temporarily hooking the cabins up to our existing septic systems. Like I said earlier this is an exciting and good thing to have happen but it does create a hurdle that needs to be overcome in the next months. During the cabin renovation project some of you may not have felt led to give to that project. This sewer project provides another area in which we could utilize and would appreciate your gifts.



Existing Cabins

I have fielded many questions about the current cabins that are in the girls' cabin area and what will be happening with them. There have been many ideas thrown out as options and this is a place where I would like to pass along some of the ideas and see where you as camp supporters would see them best used. Some of these cabins will be directly in the path of the new cabins and will consequently have to be removed before the new construction can take place while others can stay through some of the process.

As far as what to do with them, several ideas have surfaced. One idea is to put one of them out at the tee-pee site across the lake where we do our summer outpost nights. Another idea is to put one out at the Round Lake property. Obviously, both of these options would take some work and finances to get them to the final destination which would add to our current situation of having many projects around the corner.

Another idea we had is to see if you, as supporters of camp have interest in removing and transporting them to a location you have available to you. Perhaps you have a woods or a property somewhere in which you would like to have a cabin. These cabins have so many memories connected to them and etched in the walls (which we don't actually recommend). If we find there is strong interest in these cabins we may utilize a silent bidding process to finalize the ownership of each cabin. I would ask that if you would have interest in the cabins please call or email me here at camp so we can gain better direction on our options.

This has been an enormous amount of information and it may take each of you some time to gain perspective on the dynamics here at camp. I invite you to call with questions for clarification and I will do my best to convey further details that would fill gaps in the picture I have attempted to paint for you. Camp Friedenswald is entering into a new chapter and I feel excitement for the future but the reality is we each have to do some reflecting on where camp is coming from while also giving support through prayers, financial gifts, and time to usher us into the next chapter that we cannot yet see. It's just around the corner!

Thank you for what you already do for this ministry!

~ Justin Weaver, Executive Director



WINTER RETREATS WILL SOON BE HERE

Take some time to get away, and get inspired! Check out the retreat speakers and topics below. Save the date, mark your calendars and get ready for a weekend of worship, activities, food and fun! **Note: Registration forms for both Youth and Family winter retreats can be found on our website this year. Please print them out, fill them in and mail them back to us at camp.**

Junior High I, January 5-7

Tell Me a Story

Speaker: Merle Hostetler

Simple stories have often helped to ease our uncertainties, made us smile, provided direction, brought new understanding, offered a helpful view of God. Through the weekend, there will be many stories shared, stories of faith and hope, stories that might bring tears, or stories that make you roll on the floor. Oh, and hopefully you will find opportunity to share your story.

Senior High I, January 12-14

Sacrifice and Reconciliation Hollywood Style

Speaker: Jo-Ann Brandt

Sometimes the meaning of Jesus' death becomes reduced to just a few lines of doctrine that do not express all of the dimensions of how Jesus' act of self sacrificial love works. In this presentation, I will show key scenes from films, including *X-Men United*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Something About a Boy* that dramatize how self sacrificial love brings reconciliation and lifts up the lowly. We will use these film clips as a lens through which to look at aspects of Christ's atoning love that we tend to overlook. I will invite you to enter into theological dialogue about the movies that we love to watch and about Jesus' love for us.

Family Retreat, January 19-21

Coming Apart and Coming Home: A Family Story

Speaker: Jane Roeschley

With the story of The Prodigal Son (and Generous Father) in Luke 15 as our focus, we will explore how we sometimes fall apart in our families, how we can find ourselves in "a far away country" for a while, and how God's generous love never abandons us. Sessions will include humor, music, drama and interactive responses for all ages.

Senior High II, January 26-28

Faith: What's It To You?

Speaker: Regina Shands Stoltzfus

We will explore what faith means and how we express it. We will use Bible stories and our own stories to talk about living our faith authentically.

Junior High II, February 2-4

Beyond Belief

Speaker: Jessica Schrock Ringenberg

A lot can happen to us in a life time, and sometimes hope and belief are not that easy. What should we do when we know that we are suppose to have faith, but we just can't find it? What happens when what we know with our hearts we can't seem to do with our heads?

Permanent Staff Members

Justin Weaver.....Executive Director
 Colin Rusel.....Program Director
 Portia Amstutz.....Operations Manager
 Brad Cogdell.....Outdoor Learning Director
 Deb Smith.....Registrar/Bookkeeper
 Penny Yarman.....Maintenance Director
 Luke Penner.....Maintenance Assistant
 Ellie Solano.....Food Service Director
 Vicky Solano.....Housekeeper/Kitchen Assistant
 Matt & Deb Hickman.....Guest Group Hosts
 Dave and Marlene Suter.....Volunteers

Board Members

Kent Yoder (Chair)	Stephanie Company
Alison King	Scott Preheim
Jim Eicher	Curt Bechler
John Fox	Steve Stenger
Steve Yoder	Greg Nofsinger

Barriers & Bridges: Camp's Challenge Program



The Barriers & Bridges program focuses on team building and group development. All activities take place within a few feet of the ground. Groups can develop greater team cohesiveness, closer relationships and a deeper sense of trust during the 3 hours of problem-solving activities, trust-building exercises and discussion. Call Brad at Camp for more information!

Need to contact us?

Phone: 269-476-9744 Email: info@friedenswald.org
 Fax: 269-476-9745 Web: www.friedenswald.org

❖ Design and layout by Portia Amstutz, Edited by Justin Weaver

Camp Friedenswald seeks to provide people of all ages the opportunity to gain a better understanding and love for God/Christ, self, others, and nature.

Return Service Requested

15406 Watercress Dr.
 Cassopolis, MI 49031-9532

