



Blessings from the Mountain

Matthew 5:1-12

I sit in the relative calm of autumn in the Peaceful Woods. The sun is setting, evening slowly swaying beneath the stands of pine and the cool air of late September nighttime settling on my shoulders. I think back to a summer filled with blessings. A summer that was both hectic and rejuvenating. A summer in which the spirit of our loving God filled the woods creating a space where peace and community could thrive.

I want to remember the blessings of this summer and so I decide to list them. I think of times of worship, of laughter, of hikes in God's creation, of swimming in



the lake, and plentiful food shared around dining hall tables.

As I prepare to start my list, I hesitate. In all these blessings I want to record there is one commonality...campers, well campers and staff. We did all of these things together, and suddenly I realize that I am going to need a bigger piece of paper. For my list is going to be much longer than I originally thought.

If I am going to list the blessings that I experienced at camp this summer, I will have to list each camper that came up the drive and spent time here. For while God's spirit was moving through camp this summer, it was also **in** each child, each staff, each family. This summer we gathered in the peaceful woods and the love of God surrounded our camp community and reminded us that all of us, each one, is loved and sacred just the way we are.

As summer slips into autumn and the seasons change and shift, may the blessings of this summer not end. Instead, may they fill us and spread and grow and spill onto others around us.

-Submitted by Colin Rusel



Blessed are...

- ◆ Blessed are those who made it through swamp hike for they are survivors.
- ◆ Blessed are the homeless for they will find shelter.
- ◆ Blessed are the lonely for God is their friend.
- ◆ Blessed are the children for they are the future.
- ◆ Blessed are the sick for they will find health.
- ◆ Blessed are the homesick for they will be led home.
- ◆ Blessed are those with mosquito bites for they will be relieved of itching.
- ◆ Blessed are those in Iraq for they shall find peace.
- ◆ Blessed are the elderly for they will teach their wisdom.
- ◆ Blessed are those who go to Camp Friedenswald for they will learn about God and his many blessings.

- Written by 2005 summer campers during worship

Upcoming Programs and Events

Fall 2005

October 21-23	Fall Scrapbook Retreat
November 11-13	Men's Retreat
November 18-20	*Lead Now at Friedenswald
December 10	Christmas at Friedenswald

Winter 2006

January 6-8	Junior High 1 Winter Retreat (Jeremy Garber)
January 13-15	Senior High 1 Winter Retreat (Ken Hawkley)
January 20-22	Family Winter Retreat (June Mears-Driedger)
January 27-29	Senior High 2 Winter Retreat (John Dey)
February 3-5	Junior High 2 Winter Retreat (Jenna Liechty/Anna Roeschley)

*Youth Leadership Development Program, co-sponsored with Amigo Centre (www.amigocentre.org)



Spring 2006

March 3-5	Spring Scrapbook Retreat
March 10-12	*Lead Now @ Amigo Centre

From the Director's Desk....by Todd Kirkton

Come to the Mount and be blessed. I realize the whole concept of Friedenswald having a "Mount" is probably somewhat of a stretch. Turtle Hill and Inspiration Point, while both are very noticeable, only push elevations near 900 feet above sea level.

It is never a stretch, however, to experience the blessings of God here in the Peaceful Woods. The people who come to camp along with God's beautiful creation make the "Mount" real and alive.

As always, I'm amazed by the excitement of our campers that attend each year. I am also very thankful for the diligent and caring work of our staff to accommodate the thousands of people at Friedenswald each summer. (Over 10,000 meals were served in August alone!).

We also have some exciting financial blessings to share. In June, the remaining debt from the Lakeview Lodge renovation project was eliminated. Thanks to all who gave financial and prayer support during this time!

In addition to eliminating the debt, a new handicapped-accessible cabin with an indoor bathroom/shower facility was built

(by volunteers). We are very excited as this cabin (called White Pine) will be a prototype for future cabins at Friedenswald. A special thank you to the Dan and Marge Graber family for raising the funds to build the cabin.

The board completed and approved an update to the 1999 Master Plan during the July Builders meeting. The roadmap for the next 5 years at Camp Friedenswald is in place. The plan is an affirmation to continue blessing those who enter this place, as well as ensuring fiscal and procedural stability for future years.

The first major capital project of the plan involves the girls' cabin area. Camp Friedenswald has received a challenge gift of \$75,000 to build 5 new cabins that are accessible, with indoor plumbing (similar to White Pine). You can read about the new project in the box below. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to make a gift towards the new cabins at Camp.

Please "Come to the Mount" any time of the year and be blessed by the Grace of God in the Peaceful Woods. We invite you to experience the blessings of the Peaceful Woods and share the peace of Christ that you take with you from Camp.



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Weekend Lodge Openings

LL-Lakeview Lodge
TL-Tamarack Lodge
SL-Sycamore Lodge

Please inquire about several openings for White Pine, cabins and guesthouses.

December 2-4: TL, SL
December 9-11: SL
February 17-19: TL, SL
February 24-26: TL, SL
March 3-5: TL, SL
March 10-12: TL, SL
March 17-19: TL, SL
March 24-26: TL, SL
March 31-April 2: TL, SL
April 7-9: TL, SL
May 5-7: SL
May 12-14: SL
May 19-21: SL
May 26-28: TL
June 2-4: TL
June 9-11: LL, TL
July 21-23: TL, SL
August 4-6: TL
August 11-13: TL



Art sample from Women's retreat workshop, Andy Goldsworthy style, led by Carolyn Rich

BUILDING THE CABINS

The new cabin project consists of 5 cabins (plus the newly completed White Pine cabin) which will replace the original cabins 1-6 and the women's bath house. The cost for each new cabin is \$40,000. Friedenswald has secured a challenge gift of \$15,000 per cabin, bringing the total needed per cabin to **\$25,000**. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007.

Several **churches** could work together to build a new cabin:

- 2 churches = \$12,500 each
- 3 churches = \$8,333 each
- 4 churches = \$6,250 each
- 5 churches = \$5,000 each

Families could also work together to build a new cabin:

- 8 families = \$3,125 each
- 10 families = \$2,500 each

Meet our Newest Staff

☐ **Jeremy Braun** - Maintenance Assistant

Hometown: Cassopolis, Michigan

Interests: Outdoor sports, sailing, fixing things

Favorite Team: Green Bay Packers

☐ **Simeon Paulson** - Voluntary Service

Hometown: West Palm Beach, Florida

Interests: Basketball, fishing, nature, travel

Favorite Movie: The Quiet Man

☐ **Penny Yarman** - Kitchen/Maintenance Assistant

Hometown: Wadsworth, Ohio

Interests: Camping, woodworking, bugging Ellie and Pete

Note: She's back again, working towards holding every position!

☐ **Deb Hickman** - Guest Group Host

Hometown: Shippshewana, Indiana

Interests: Scrapbooking, cross-stitch, movies, reading

Favorite Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13

☐ **Matt Hickman** - Guest Group Host

Hometown: Paoli, Indiana

Interests: Comic books, native plants, hip hop music

Little Known Fact: I can spot a salamander while riding in a car at 45 mph.



Friedenswald Volunteer (frē' dēnz wäld vāl'ən tir')

n. one who enters into service of their own free will in the Peaceful Woods

Do you fit the definition of a Friedenswald Volunteer? We are always in need of volunteers to assist with various projects at camp. You could come by yourself, with a group of friends, or even think about making this a Sunday School class, youth group, or church wide project! Come for a few hours, a day, a weekend, or even longer. Check out the list below for the wide variety of needs and you're sure to find something that will fit your skills and talents. Some projects can even be taken home if you prefer. While you are here, you will receive free lodging, meals, and the great feeling of knowing that you are making a difference. Best of all, you'll get your name and picture on our volunteer bulletin board! What could be better than that?!

- ◆ Sort game cabinet (fall/winter - 2 hours)
- ◆ Inventory arts & crafts room (spring/fall - 2 hours)
- ◆ Paint arts and crafts room (anytime - 4 hours)
- ◆ Prepare nature journals (anytime - 2-4 hours)
- ◆ Sanitize/organize playroom toys (winter/spring - 3 hours)
- ◆ Scrub/paint walls in dining hall bathrooms (anytime - 2-4 hours)
- ◆ Organize program photos/albums (anytime - 3-5 hours)
- ◆ Kitchen inventory of lodges (anytime - 2 hours each)
- ◆ Inventory/organize health center (spring—2 hours)
- ◆ Update summer staff manuals (May - 3 hours)
- ◆ Copy/fold brochures (spring/fall—2 hours)
- ◆ Inventory camping supplies (fall - 3 hours)
- ◆ Sew blindfolds (anytime - 3-5 hours)
- ◆ Sew comforters (anytime)
- ◆ Repair/sand/seal dock and ladders (spring)
- ◆ Deep cleaning (spring/fall)
- ◆ Assist with new bog jog platforms (fall)
- ◆ Sailboat repairs/recommendations for upkeep (spring)
- ◆ Inventory and clean kitchen equipment (spring/fall)
- ◆ Detail camp cars and trucks (spring/fall)
- ◆ Revitalize sand volleyball court on upper flat (spring/fall)
- ◆ Touch up painting in camp buildings (anytime)
- ◆ Make nametags using chop saw, drill press, and sander (anytime)
- ◆ Build birdhouses, bat houses, and wood duck houses (anytime)
- ◆ Clean and repair purple martin houses (anytime)
- ◆ Organize/Sort Digital photo albums (Fall 2005)



Junior Choir Camp Concert



Primary Camp



Junior High Rails to Trails Bike

Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, held a baptism service at camp in late August. Below left: Emily Schantz is being submersed by Pastors Karl Shelly and Mary Lehman Yoder. Below middle: Maria Byler, Beth Glick, and Ben Jacobs await their turn.



Carli Gerber makes sure the campers get shaving creamed.

Permanent Staff Members

Todd Kirkton.....Executive Director
 Colin Rusel.....Program Director
 Portia Amstutz.....Operations Manager
 Brad Cogdell.....Outdoor Learning Director
 Deb Smith.....Bookkeeper/Registrar
 Pete Amstutz.....Maintenance Director
 Ellie Solano.....Food Service Director
 Vicky Solano.....Housekeeper
 Simeon Paulson.....Voluntary Service
 Jeremy Braun.....Maintenance
 Penny Yarman.....Kitchen/Maintenance
 Matt & Deb Hickman.....Guest Group Hosts
 Dave and Marlene Suter.....Volunteers

Board Members

Kent Yoder, Chair	Stephanie Company
Curt Bechler	Kate Gundy
Jim Eicher	Scott Preheim
John Fox	Alison King
Steve Stenger	

Need to contact us?

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 Fax: 269-476-9745 Web: www.friedenswald.org

❖ Design and layout by Portia Amstutz , Edited by Todd Kirkton

Wish List

- ◆ Beach Umbrellas
- ◆ Quilts/Comforters
- ◆ Kitchen Utility Carts
- ◆ Tents
- ◆ DVD Players
- ◆ Cross-Country Skis/Boots
- ◆ Small Desk Lamps
- ◆ Mini Fridge
- ◆ Puzzles & Board Games (new or gently used)
- ◆ Candle Wax and Used Candles
- ◆ Beads (any kind)
- ◆ Bright Colored Crochet String
- ◆ Bird Seed or Suet
- ◆ Bird Feeders (finch & oriole)
- ◆ Free Standing Air Compressor (5+ hp)
- ◆ Silage Bag (100+ feet for waterslide)
- ◆ New Snow Sleds and Truck Inner Tubes
- ◆ Children's Books for Playroom
- ◆ Woven Rugs for Cabins
- ◆ Small Capture Nets
- ◆ Ping-Pong Paddles (new or gently used)
- ◆ Scissors (for Arts & Crafts room)
- ◆ Picture Frames (various sizes to hang on wall)
- ◆ Old Camp Photos (with dates and captions)
- ◆ Microphone Stands
- ◆ Medium/large suitcase with wheels/handle
- ◆ Velcro A/V cord ties
- ◆ 50 foot RCA cable

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

