



The Park River Bible Camp Proclaimer

October 2008
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Chapel Building Finds New Location

On Wednesday, October 8, the Park River Bible Camp Chapel project took a major step forward. The building was thoroughly braced on the inside and attached to giant beams. The beams were then lifted and placed on wheels. It was pulled off the old foundation and rolled on to the new foundation. On Thursday the building was lowered to rest on the foundation prepared for it. The moving process, which took nearly an entire week to complete, was accomplished by Carrington House Moving from Carrington, ND.

The moving process was a necessity in not only improving the building, but also to preserve the building. The old foundation was already sinking in all four corners, so the additional weight of materials used to remodel the interior would have accelerated the deterioration of the foundation and ultimately the building itself. Dennie Fry, PRBC Site Director said, "After the building was removed, the foundation was actually in worse shape than originally thought."

The Chapel project can be accomplished because of a large financial gift left to the camp a few years ago by John Paulson. This was a gift large enough to not only help ensure the ongoing ministry at the camp for years to come, but also able to fund the entire Chapel restoration and improvement project. Restoring the Chapel was one of John's wishes for the camp.

While planning the project, the board of directors felt it would be an appropriate time to answer the dilemma of... *continued on page 3*

Quilt Auction Scheduled for November 1

On Saturday, November 1, 2008, Park River Bible Camp will hold its 21st annual Quilt Auction. Quilts and other hand-made items are being donated by women's groups and individuals from all over Eastern North Dakota and beyond. To view some of these beautiful quilts visit the camp's webpage, www.parkriverbiblecamp.org. As more items are received, pictures will be added to the photo album, so be sure to check back often!

The auction will begin at 12:30pm with auctioneer Arlyn Askim. The auction itself, held in the gymnasium of the Retreat Center at PRBC, will open for viewing at 10:00pm. A soup and sandwich buffet will be served in the Dining Hall from 10:30am until noon. Supplemental funds for the event are provided by the North Country Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The camp invites you to join us for this event.

For over twenty years now, the Quilt Auction has been a significant fundraiser for PRBC. For example, last year the auction and Soup and Sandwich Buffet raised over \$25,000 for the Lord's ministry at PRBC. We as a camp are very grateful for what this event has done and what it will do again this year. Special thanks... *continued on page 3*

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The new view of the chapel as you enter camp.

The New Proclaimer

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We are excited to present to you our new *Proclaimer*. The format is fairly similar, and the articles cover the same type of content, but it will be sent much more often. In past years we have sent one, maybe two issues each year, but there is a lot going on here that we want all of you to know about. After all... *continued on page 4*



One of many quilts that may be seen at www.parkriverbiblecamp.org

Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner a Huge Success

On September 14th, the 34th Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner was held at the Bible Camp. One thousand eighty-six people came out to enjoy some of the best lutefisk and meatballs that have ever been made! In addition, there was a fantastic bazaar filled with good things, and Ordean Oen was present selling his famous jellies. All of the proceeds from the bazaar and from Ordean's jellies went to the ministry of the Lord here at Park River Bible Camp.

A huge "thank you" is due to Artha Travers and Sheryl Kjelland as they organized and led the dinner. Another huge "thank you" is due to Northern Valley Growers who donated all the potatoes. In the past we have purchased potatoes so getting fresh ones was a huge blessing! A third "thank you" goes to the Walsh County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for supplemental funds. Thank you to Ordean for the donation of his jellies, to all those who brought items for the bazaar, to those who loaned golf carts, to all those who brought dessert items for the dinner, to all who volunteered their time, and to all who joined us for the day. The entire event

PRBC's First Ever Outback Retreat

On September 6th and 7th Park River Bible Camp held its first ever Sr. High Outback Retreat. We tented out, cooked out, and had an all out Jesus centered good time in the woods of our nature trail area. Eighteen high school youth came out for the event and heard that they were chosen by God to know Jesus and to grow in a faith relationship with Him.

Our theme verse for the retreat was Ephesians 1:4: "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." When someone is chosen to join a team or a company, they are usually chosen because of what the person has to offer. However, when God chose us He did not choose us because He needed what we had to offer, but because we needed what He had to give. In ourselves we are sinners. In ourselves we have nothing to offer God that He should forgive us our sin. Yet God has given us His Son and chosen us to believe in Him so that through faith in Him we are holy and blameless in His sight.

Although it rained a little on Friday evening, we were still able to enjoy each other, praise Jesus, hear His Word and enjoy His great creation. We are eagerly awaiting the second Outback Retreat next fall.

Jesus Christ... The Rock of Salvation

September was a huge month at the Bible Camp. In addition to having our first ever Outback Retreat, we began a new monthly event for senior high youth entitled "The Rock." The Rock is a time in which high school students are invited to come to the camp for an evening of worship and fellowship. First we lift God's name up in praise and worship, then we hear a special speaker, and finally we enjoy snacks and a time to just relax and enjoy each other's company.

Dan Antal was our first speaker and he encouraged our youth to build their lives on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ and His promises to us. Our next speaker was Alex Amiot who spoke of the faithfulness of our God. He read from Deuteronomy 32:4 which says, "He is the rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just."

As this is written, our chapel is three feet off the ground and about to be moved. Many physical changes are happening at camp these days but one thing remains the same – the steadfast love of our God for us. He is our rock, our firm foundation, we can always trust in Him.

was a great blessing to us, and we hope it was to you as well.

Retreats & Events 2008-2009

We're more than a summer camp!

September

27 ~ 1-3 Grade Retreat

October

3-4 ~ 4-6 Grade Retreat

5 ~ "The Rock" for Sr. High

17-18 ~ 7-9 Grade Retreat

November

1 ~ Quilt Auction/Soup & Sandwich

2 ~ "The Rock" for Sr. High

7-9 ~ Quilt Retreat

15 ~ 1-3 Grade Retreat

21-23 ~ Scrapping/Stamping Retreat

December

5-6 ~ 4-6 Grade Retreat

7 ~ "The Rock" for Sr. High

31-Jan. 1 ~ Sr. High New Years Retreat

January

17 ~ 1-3 Grade Retreat

18 ~ "The Rock" for Sr. High

23-25 ~ Quilt Retreat

30-Feb. 1 ~ Sr. High Ski Retreat

February

15 ~ "The Rock" for Sr. High

20-22 ~ 7-9 Grade Ski Retreat

March

13-15 ~ Quilt Retreat

15 ~ "The Rock" for Sr. High

27-28 ~ 4-6 Grade Retreat

April

18 ~ 1-3 Grade Retreat

19 ~ "The Rock" for Sr. High

2009 Summer Camps

1-2 Grade Day Camps

July 8, July 9, August 10, August 11

3rd Grade Mini Camps

July 5-7 & August 9-11

4-6 Grade Adventure Camps

June 21-26, July 26-31, August 2-7

Jr. High Primetime

July 5-10 & July 19-24

Sr. High Power Surge

July 12-17

Chapel *continued from page 1* ...a lack of office space by including a new office wing. The camp now has five year-round employees that need offices, but only three offices. Located in the Retreat Center, only one of those three offices was originally designed as an office. The new facility will have five new offices, a conference room, and two spaces that could be converted to offices if the need were to arise. While funding for the chapel portion of the project is covered by the Paulson estate, the office wing portion is funded by support being raised from other individuals and organizations. The old office spaces will easily be reallocated.

The groundbreaking and preparation of the foundation took place over the summer, and this is another major step in a project that has been several years in the planning. When completed, the entire facility will be heated and air conditioned. It will contain a beautifully restored and enhanced Chapel Sanctuary, a new and larger Fireside Room, an adjoining hallway with men's and women's bathrooms, five new offices, a new conference room, a new staff bathroom, and more storage space. The camp looks forward with excitement to using this restored/new facility and is very thankful for the kind support of John Paulson and others. May it be utilized for the Glory of God and the proclamation of Jesus Christ!

Quilt *continued from page 1* ...go out to all of the individuals and organizations that so kindly donate quilts and other hand-made items, Arlyn Askim of Park River for volunteering his time to do the auction, Pam Berntson of Adams for chairing the event (she does a lot of work and does a tremendous job), Sheryl Kjelland for organizing the Soup and Sandwich Buffet, all other individuals who volunteer their time to make the event happen, the buyers who support the ministry of the camp with their dollars, and the North Country Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing supplemental funds. Thank you to all of you who have blessed us with your support in this event. May the Lord bless what you have given so that His name may be praised and His Son Jesus Christ glorified!

Thank You Jackie Johnson!

Park River Bible Camp would like to issue a big "thank you" to Jackie Johnson and recognize her for many years of faithful service to this ministry. On August 15th, Jackie served her last day as Office Manager at the camp, a role she filled for eight years.

Jackie is now enrolled at St. Cloud State University in the Master of Arts program for Public History. She would like to work at a museum in collections. (Don't worry; she won't show up at your door regarding that bounced check to the museum.) She means working with and caring for the artifacts in a museum. Jackie has always loved history. She graduated from NDSU, earning a bachelor's degree in History with an emphasis in Public History.

Jackie was a part of the PRBC staff for many years. She served on summer staff in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2000. Her different positions during those years included Office Assistant, VBS Counselor, and Camp Counselor. She then came on full-time as Secretary in the fall of 2000. Jackie said her biggest joys in working at camp were "Seeing kids and adults excited to come to camp. ...the campers that came back year after year after year and the spiritual growth that took place in their lives, some of those eventually becoming staff members. ...seeing the staff work each summer. They work sooooo hard and with so little sleep sometimes. Friendships with staff members have also been a HUGE blessing."

Jackie was always a joy to work with, bringing a cheerful attitude and a love for the Lord. Steve Kordahl, Director of Ministries said, "Jackie's commitment to the camp was immeasurable. Her desire to always do her best was clear to all." We are thankful for the many years she served and wish her the best, knowing that God will use her as a blessing to people wherever she goes. Thanks Jackie!

Volunteers Needed

With the Chapel on its new foundation, there is much work to be done to get the building ready for use. To keep costs down and give you an opportunity to be a part of God's ministry here, we are seeking volunteers to help Dennie with this major project. Would you please consider joining us? You may volunteer virtually any day (weekends included), now through next spring. How far we get before summer 2009 depends on volunteers. If you are willing to volunteer, please call ahead of time so Dennie can line up work for you to do. PRBC: (701) 284-6795 or toll-free at (800) 269-2465. Dennie: (701) 331-9612.

PRBC Welcomes New Office Manager

Park River Bible Camp has hired Tammy Olson of Edinburg, ND as the new Office Manager. She began her employment at PRBC on May 21st. She began as Office Assistant in anticipation of Jackie Johnson (former Office Manager) moving on in August. During that time from May to August, Tammy learned the ropes of the many responsibilities of her position. She does much more than serve as the friendly voice you hear when you call camp. She keeps a certain Program Director in line, handles all camp and retreat registrations, manages camp mailings and databases, and provides exceptional office support to programming and administration. Before accepting the position at camp, Tammy had a day care for eight years, so she certainly brings a love for children to camp.

She says she felt the Lord lead her to the position. And the camp certainly believes this is true. When asked what excites her about the camp ministry she said, "It is so fun to see the children come to camp, and they are so excited to learn more about Jesus. God is doing such wonderful things at camp."

Steve Kordahl, Director of Ministries at PRBC said, "Tammy was an answer to prayer. Her smile and her positive attitude are a huge addition to the camp."

Tammy, a native of Clearbrook, MN lives in Edinburg with her husband Daniel and their two kids. Daniel works as a civilian at the Cavalier Air Force Station and their two children, Andrew (16) and Elizabeth (15) are both in high school in Edinburg.

PRBC is blessed to have Tammy on staff and looks forward to continued fruitful ministry with her.

Proclaimer continued from page 1 ...it's your camp (all of you in our member churches, all of you who so faithfully support this ministry in finances and prayer, and all of you who attend camps and other functions). So starting with this issue, the *Proclaimer* is bimonthly. Most articles will be written by our Program staff (Luke Berntson and Dan Antal).

To help us save postage and printing costs, you can receive the *Proclaimer* by email in a .pdf format. To do this please call or email us and add goprbc@polarcomm.com to your safe senders list.



Tammy Olson, the new Office Manager

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2008 PRBC Summer Staff