



The Park River Bible Camp Proclaimer

March 2010 - Volume 25, Issue 2

Make Plans for Camp This Summer

It may seem quaint for you to

read about summer while we are so deep into winter that we can scarcely remember what that season is like. Was there really a time of warmth and sunshine when we didn't have to let the car warm up for five minutes just to drive across town? Will the barbecue season really return?

Even though we at camp stare at the same snow and shiver in the same cold every day, we spend those days talking about, thinking about, and making plans for summer. Should Christ's return tarry for at least a few more months, summer will return, and children and youth will attend Park River Bible Camp for another summer.

There are plenty of great reasons to attend camp or send the children and youth in your life. I hope you have read or will read Sean's "From the Director's Desk" article. I also encourage you to read Emilie Olson's "What PRBC Means to Me." If you're like me, you may say, "Paul did what?" But more so, you will see (or be reminded of) how God has been at work in this place. I truly believe the impact we have on kids' lives is of incalculable value. It's all because of Jesus; His death and resurrection come to us through His Word, making us new creations.

This summer our theme is "Rock Solid." The theme verse is Psalm 118:22, "The stone the builders rejected has be-

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(800) 269-2465

goprbc@polarcomm.com

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You can support the ministry of PRBC by giving online.



133 fourth-sixth graders attended Adventure Camp 3 last year. We can't wait to for another great summer.

From the Director's Desk

By Sean Barnhart, Director of Ministries

I'm sure some of you parents and grandparents can relate: since I became a father thirteen months ago, I have become a much more nervous person. Little things that I didn't worry about before have suddenly become life threatening hazards to my son. Everything within reach poses a new threat and carries with it the potential to cause him harm. Sometimes I feel as though letting him out of sight would be considered reckless endangerment.

As if this weren't enough, I can't help but worry about future hazards as well. I get nervous when I think about him being

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What PRBC Means to Me

By Emilie Olson

Park River Bible Camp has been a part of my life for the past nine summers. I started going after third grade and I wouldn't miss it for anything. Each year it gets better and better. We start out the week by doing activities with our counselor and cabin mates to get to know each other better. Then we usually have Rally Time which is where we get to worship Jesus. That is my personal favorite part of camp. The counselors usually have skits for us; most of the time they are hilarious, and they teach us life lessons. Rally Time is a time at camp where we can have fun and know that each of us is having one-on-one time with God Almighty! How cool is that?!?!



Other than Rally Time, my ABSOLUTE favorite part of camp is campfire. When I am standing up there with the other 150 kids, looking up at the sky, and realize that even though I am just one person in this huge universe, God loves me with His whole heart, it just makes me feel special. One can't even put into words what campfire makes me feel like.

When I am at Bible Camp I feel like I can be completely and totally myself. I know that all the kids there are as crazy about Jesus as I am, and that is one of THE coolest feelings ever. When we are at camp we don't have to be worried about what kids are going to think about being a Christian.

There are so many life lessons that I've learned at Bible Camp, but one of the most important ones is that God is going to love me no matter how bad I mess up. I also have SO many memories from Bible Camp. Some of them are God moments and others are just about the random silly things we talk about or the prank war between your cabin and the boys' cabin. One time Paul (one of the counselors who also came to our VBS) put shaving cream on our steps, doorknob, and toilet seat, and the next morning we woke up to our toilet-papered lawn. Those memories still make me giggle. Often times I'll be talking to one of my friends and they'll say something that will make me think of camp and I will just start laughing.

I think one of the coolest things I've learned at PRBC that has stuck with me is Bible verses. If I really thought hard about it, I bet I could sing twenty of them; some of them being from back in fourth and fifth grade. Okay, so I could talk on and on about Bible Camp, but I think I will stop here. To anyone who might possibly want to go to camp, but just isn't sure: don't doubt yourself anymore. Camp will change your life if you let it. It sure changed mine!

Emilie Olson is a senior in high school from Alvarado, MN.

Spring Retreats & Events

March

- 12-14 "Cabin Fever Reliever" Quilt Retreat
- 17-19 Young Adult Work Retreat
- 19-21 "Going Green" Scrapbooking & Stamping Retreat

April

- 10 VBS Coordinators Meeting
- 10 1-3 Grade Day Camp
- 16-17 4-6 Grade Retreat
- 18 Anoka H.S. Orchestra @ PRHS
- 25 Pancake Dinner

Visit our website for more info or to register.

2010 Summer Camps

- 1-2 Grade Day Camps
June 24, June 25, August 16, August 17
- 3rd Grade Mini Camps
July 14-16 & August 15-17
- 4-6 Grade Adventure Camps
June 27-July 2, August 1-6, August 8-13
- Jr. High Primetime
July 11-16 & July 25-30
- Sr. High Power Surge
July 18-23

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come the cornerstone." The verse is quoted several times in the New Testament, where it is applied to Jesus Christ, who is the Solid Rock. Some of our daily themes are based on the New Testament passages where this verse is used, while others are based on passages that speak of Jesus Christ as the *rock* or *foundation* of our faith and life.

Our program is designed to give campers a Christ-centered experience where they enjoy God's creation, learn to interact with each other in a spirit of Christian love, recognize themselves as part of the body of Christ, relax and play in a safe and encouraging environment, and, most importantly, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We hope you will give us the opportunity to provide these things for the children and youth in your life.

April 25th Pancake Dinner

Park River Bible Camp will hold its annual Pancake Dinner from 10am to 1:30pm on Sunday, April 25th. Come hungry and leave satisfied that your stomach is full and that your free will donations go towards the ministry of PRBC, which is to proclaim the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

5th and 6th Graders to Use the Climbing Tower

Last year at this time we were looking forward to building and using our new climbing tower. We had a great summer with it in 2009, and have now decided to make it an option for fifth and sixth graders (previously, it has been limited to seventh grade and up).

Thank You FSA

Thank you to the FSA office in Park River for the generous donation of office furniture. With this donation of desks, chairs, and file cabinets, we are able to outfit our new offices and file room. What a blessing.



Top: Two volunteers finish siding the rear wall of the Chapel.

Bottom: The interior siding of the Chapel has just been completed.

April 18th Orchestra Concert

The Anoka High School Concert Orchestra will be traveling to Park River on April 18th and 19th, 2010. There will be a performance for the public at Park River High School on Sunday evening, April 18th at 7pm and a school performance at the high school on Monday, April 19th. Proceeds from the April 18th concert benefit Park River Bible Camp. The cost is free-will.

The Anoka High School Concert Orchestra is a ninety member group made up of string players from the orchestra program and wind/percussion players from the band program. Anoka High School is located in the northern part of the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, and is one of the largest high schools in the state with a student population of 2,500.

The Concert Orchestra will be performing a varied program including the music of Vivaldi, Hovhanness, Tschaikowski and others. The conductor of the orchestra is Michael Halstenson, who grew up on a farm near Niagara, ND and went to school at Unity High School in Petersburg. The orchestra will be performing one of Halstenson's compositions "Through many dangers, toils and snares," which was written as a commemoration to the victims of the 2003 tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Through the use of all the orchestral forces, the audience will feel transformed into the middle of the power and devastation of that event. The orchestra will also perform Tschaikowski's "1812 Overture," which is one of the most famous orchestral pieces ever written. We most often hear it during the 4th of July with the use of church bells (chimes), cannons, and fireworks.

We hope that you will come hear these fine young musicians as they bring their music to North Dakota. It will be an enlightening and entertaining concert that is sure to have something for everyone, and will benefit the ministry of Park River Bible Camp.

Thank You Volunteers!

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the many volunteers who have helped us in the remodeling of the chapel, placing of cabinets in the conference room and kitchenette, and working in the interior of the office complex. If not for these volunteers and their skills, we would not be looking forward to using the office wing and air-conditioned chapel this coming summer.

May God richly bless you for your labor of love to Him and PRBC.

PARK RIVER · BIBLE · CAMP ·

106 Solid Rock Circle

Park River ND 58270

(701) 284 6795 or (800) 269-2465

www.parkriverbiblecamp.org

goprbc@polarcomm.com

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mobile enough to cross the street. Anxiety rushes over me when I imagine him attending school with the *other* children. The prospect of him facing decisions about drugs and alcohol head-on terrifies me. I often find myself wondering what I will do if he struggles with depression, shyness, or insecurity. There is a legion of potential choices he will be faced with as he grows older, and I worry about every single one of them.

But the real fear comes when I realize that, as a parent, it is my job to do the best I can to lay a firm foundation in his life. Think about it; God has entrusted us with our children and grandchildren. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is upon us to lay a foundation of faith in their lives.

At their baptisms we promised to faithfully bring them up in the church, to teach

them to pray, and to confess their faith.

We promised to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and to provide instruction in the Christian faith. We have promised to lay a foundation in their lives that the Holy Spirit can build upon.

Part of the purpose of Park River Bible Camp is to serve you, the church, and you, the parents, in laying that foundation. At PRBC the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed to the glory of God the Father. Youth are taught the Scriptures and encouraged to worship the Lord with their peers.

Fulfilling the baptismal promises we have made is not accomplished in one day or by completing certain tasks. It takes a lifelong commitment. Sending your children and grandchildren to PRBC is one way, one great way, to make good on those baptismal promises.

PRBC Year-Round Staff

Sean Barnhart

Director of Ministries

Dan Antal

Program Director

Luke Berntson

Associate Program Director

Dennie Fry

Site Director

Sheila Fry

Kitchen Manager

Tammy Olson

Office Manager

Pam Berntson

Treasurer

Rodney Collins

Maintenance

Richard Kavli

Maintenance