



The Park River Bible Camp Proclaimer

March 2012 - Volume 27, Issue 1

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Look for the next
Proclaimer in June. Visit
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(800) 269-2465
goprbc@polarcomm.com
ParkRiverBibleCamp.org

Camper Spotlight

Hi! My name is Jacki Torfin. I grew up in Park River and was a camper at PRBC throughout elementary school, junior high, and high school. I started working at camp in high school as a camp assistant, then moved on to being a camp counselor during my college years. All totaled, I spent seven summers on staff, as well as numerous retreats during the school years. Park River Bible Camp has been an integral influence in my faith and life.

I had gone to church and Sunday school and knew about Jesus, but God used my experiences at PRBC to really bring meaning and vibrancy to the faith He had given me. My camp experience has shaped who I am, my worldview, and how I understand myself and all others as children of God.



The Bible studies, music, games, campfires, silliness, challenge courses, late night talks, skits, and everything else pointed us (and still points us)

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The red line marks the 80 acres already owned by PRBC, and the yellow line marks the 40 acres recently purchased. Both lines are approximate.

Park River Bible Camp Grows – 120 Acres of God’s Country

On November 29th, 2011, Park River Bible Camp won the bid on 40 acres of woodlands adjacent to camp property, increasing the acreage of camp from 80 acres to 120 acres. For several years, PRBC had been allowed to clear and maintain a trail on the 40 acres, but due to justifiable fears over liability, PRBC did not use the land for any other purpose.

Owning the land permits PRBC to expand its program in a variety of ways. This summer, there are already plans in place to lengthen the nature trails and to add new campfire and tenting sites. Possibilities for future development include, but are not limited to, expanding the high ropes course, developing a paintball field, and building more cabins.

The 40 acres of land was purchased by the Park River Bible Camp Endowment Fund. Individual donors also gave about \$30,000 towards the purchase of the land. The plan is to treat the land as an asset of the Endowment Fund with PRBC paying the Endowment Fund rent on the land. The rental amount will be comparable to current annual rates on a certificate of deposit, 2-3 percent of the purchase price annually.

Cost to Camp vs. Cost to Camper

For more than 75 years, Park River Bible Camp has proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of all ages. But the cost of doing ministry at Park River Bible Camp has increased. For instance, in 1986, PRBC's operating budget was about \$195,000 and the cost for a weeklong summer camp for elementary aged children was about \$65. In 2011, PRBC's operating budget was about \$476,000 and a weeklong camp for elementary aged children costs a child about \$225.

But \$225 doesn't tell the whole story. PRBC's expenses for a week-long camp easily exceed that amount. Consider the following numbers from 2011. In 2011, the income gained from camper registrations for our summer camp program (mid-May to mid-August) totaled about \$112,000. Total camp expenses (salaries for full-time and summer staff, facility expenses, program costs, kitchen costs, etc...) from May to August were \$255,000. **That leaves \$143,000 to be raised in a way other than registrations.**

Renting the camp facility to outside organizations, income from the camp store, and fundraisers help cover some ground. **But the vast majority of those funds are made up through donations from individuals and local congregations.**

This ministry is carried on the shoulders of faithful people giving all amounts according to their means. People who want to see Jesus Christ proclaimed to children through Park River Bible Camp have consistently allowed us to keep camper costs low. For some, gifts from donors have removed the burden of finances from registering for summer camp altogether. This is something of which the Board of Directors and PRBC Staff have long been proud. Thank you to all those who give and help make Park River Bible Camp affordable to so many families!

Simply Giving

The *Simply Giving Program*, offered by Thrivent Financial Bank, allows you to make automatic donations to Park River Bible Camp through your checking or savings account. It is a great way to give regularly and con-

Designating Thrivent Choice Dollars

The Thrivent Choice Dollars program has been so helpful to Park River Bible Camp because many eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and supporters of PRBC have chosen to bless this ministry. If you are one of those supporters, thank you!

Thrivent Choice Dollars are designated based on insurance premiums, contract values, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran organizations nationwide. If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars to one of the enrolled organizations, Thrivent will notify you. Please consider designating some or all of your Choice Dollars to Park River Bible Camp. Call (800) 847-4836 or go online to thrivent.com/thriventchoice, click on the red "Get Started" button, and enter "Park River Lutheran Bible Camp" as the organization name.

March

16-18 [Scrapbooking & Stamping Retreat](#)
24-25 [Crocheting & Knitting Retreat](#)
27 [Sr. Citizens' Spring Gathering](#)
30-4.1 [7th-12th Grade Retreat: "What's Love Got to Do With It?"](#)

April

1 [Easter Cantata; 3pm @PRBC](#)
13-14 [4th-6th Grade Retreat](#)
29 [Pancake Dinner](#)

May

8 [Jubilee Spring Gathering](#)
12 [1st-3rd Grade Retreat](#)
24 [Summer Staff Arrival!](#)

Visit our website for more info.

sistently. Starting the program is easy. Simply go to parkriverbiblecamp.org and, under the "Support the Ministry" tab, select "Simply Giving" and follow the directions to find the enrollment form. The form only takes a few minutes to complete and minimal information is needed.

As easy as it is to start the program, it is just as easy to adjust your giving or cease giving altogether. We understand personal situations may change in the future, for better or for worse. To cancel or change your giving to Park River Bible Camp through *Simply Giving* for any reason, simply use the same enrollment form used to start the program to change or cancel your giving.

Easter Cantata

The Easter Cantata, *The Cross: Where God's Grace Meets Our Need*, will be performed on Palm Sunday, April 1st, 3:00pm at Park River Bible Camp. The cantata is a collection of songs that will inspire worship from the choir and congregation. The choir consists of area vocalists and musicians under the direction of Lorrie Hylden. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the ministry of PRBC.

Bathroom Renovations

Over the last few years, those who attended Quilt Retreats at PRBC have been giving money to what they affectionately called, "The Give So Others Can Go" fund. The fund was created for the purpose of restoring the Retreat Center bathrooms found at the back of the building.

This February and March, Lloyd Thompson of Grafton donated about a 100 hours of labor towards one of those bathrooms. The bathroom received a new floor with ceramic tile, a new vanity and countertop, a fresh coat of paint and texturing, new lighting, mirrors and showerheads. Sheetrock and door frames that had seen some water damage over the years were also replaced.

Lloyd Thompson, along with Charles Thompson, also retiled the bathroom floor in the office wing of the Chapel and repaired the floor in the conference room kitchenette.

Thank you to those who gave towards the Retreat Center project and especially to our volunteers for all of their hard work!

Below: The newly remodeled bathroom in the retreat center.

Right: The bathroom in the office wing of the chapel.



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to Jesus. One of the unique experiences and privileges of being part of a Bible camp staff is having a front row seat to what the Holy Spirit does in the lives of campers and fellow staff, and this experience is multiplied as one continues to be involved in camp ministry. Some of my best friends are those I worked at camp with, and I keep in touch with many of my former campers as well.

It is difficult to put into words the depth of impact being a camper and staff member at PRBC has had and will always have on me. It is an honor and a blessing to continue to support Park River Bible Camp, and I praise God for all He has done, is doing, and will continue to do in and through this place. Thank you for supporting PRBC!

Pancake Dinner

Park River Bible Camp's annual Pancake and Sausage Dinner will be held April 29th. Serving begins at 10:30am and will end at 1:30pm. A free-will offering will get you all you can eat! All proceeds go to the ministry of Park River Bible Camp. Applications for supplemental funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are pending.



Sean Barnhart, Director of Ministries, and Luke Berntson, Program Director, write a weekly blog on the PRBC website. Visit parkriverbiblecamp.org/blog to read it.



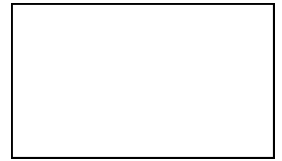
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PARK RIVER · BIBLE · CAMP ·

106 Solid Rock Circle
Park River ND 58270
(701) 284 6795 or (800) 269-2465
www.parkriverbiblecamp.org
goprbc@polarcomm.com



From the Director's Desk

By Sean Barnhart, Director of Ministries

Article II of PRBC's constitution states,

This association believes and confesses that the Holy Scriptures, the canonical books of the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God and therefore, source and rule of faith, doctrine, and life.

This association accepts and holds the Apostolic, Nicene, and the Athanasian creeds and also the unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism. Nothing contrary to these confessions shall be taught either in sermons or in other instruction.

In an effort to honor camp's constitution I've been studying from the Book of Concord, the seminal book containing the confessions of Lutherans around the world. The Reader's Edition to the Book of Concord introduces the doctrine of justification as described in the Augsburg Confession as follows:

There is a historic saying in Lutheranism that the Church stands or falls on the article of justification. To *justify* means "to declare righteous." God's sure and certain declaration that we are righteous in His eyes is



possible only because of our Savior, Jesus Christ... Our justification before God, therefore, is brought about by the One who lived, suffered, and died for our salvation. We cannot merit God's favor through our obedience; we cannot offer sacrifices to pay for our sins. But what we cannot do for ourselves, Christ has done for us. He is the Solid Rock on which God builds his Church. On Him, and Him alone, we stand forgiven.

All that we are as children of God hinges upon Christ doing for us what we could not do. For this reason, our very gifted Program Director is building our summer curriculum on Ephesians 2:1-10. The theme verse is Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved

through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." May the Holy Spirit strengthen and perhaps even create faith in all those who hear the proclaimed Word of God from Ephesians 2 this summer at Park River Bible Camp.

