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"Sharing Christ's Love"

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Permit No. 75



# Woodcrest Whisperings

SUMMER

WOODCREST RETREAT

2020

## Fall Calendar of Events

### Annual Golf Tournament September 26<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Golf Tournament that was scheduled for May was rescheduled by Foxchase Golf Club for September 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for folks to support Woodcrest while enjoying a round of golf and all the companionship that goes with it. The Tournament registration begins at 12:00 and the day ends with a delicious dinner at 5:30 with prizes and awards given out at that time. Registration and sponsorship information available on our website.



### Annual Benefit Auction and Kids Camp Bonanza October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mark your calendars for our annual Benefit Auction and Kids Camp Bonanza scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Woodcrest Board is still working on the format and schedule for this year's event to adjust to the pandemic. Look for information to be available by the end of summer.



### Fall Senior Citizen Day October 7<sup>th</sup>

This year's Fall Senior Citizen Day is being postponed as we strive to help keep our older guests safe. We look forward to hosting this biannual event in the spring.

## Experience Our Pool

Due to the pandemic, we had to make modifications to our pool procedures. Part of those changes included limiting access to our pool to keep numbers within guidelines. This unfortunately kept many from enjoying the refreshing waters of our pool this summer. To help make up for that we are opening the pool to the public from August 10-21 but requiring people to sign up from our website for a timeslot. You will find a link on our homepage.



## Opportunity to Bless

If you are able, consider how you can meet any of these requests

- **Fall work groups/individuals for wood cutting, painting, clean up, etc...**
- **12-15 Passenger Van** (2010 or newer) \$26,000-\$30,000
- **Commercial Freezer or Walk-in cooler** \$18,000
- **Golf cart** \$6,000-\$8,000
- **Folks to commit to praying for Woodcrest – Priceless!**

## Summer Celebration Picnic

### Saturday, August 1

#### Chicken BBQ Meal - 4-6 PM

Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, food, and of course, great music. Our Summer Celebration Picnic is a great way to spend a Saturday evening. Enjoy Peter's famous BBQ chicken with other favorites. Chicken dinners will be available between 4:00-6:00. You can dine in, pick up, or drive thru. \$10/adults; \$7/children 2-12; Free under 2.

#### Short Program - 6 PM

At 6:00 we will have a short program in Indian Rock dining hall where we

will honor Cliff Martin for his many years of faithful service. The new director, Bill Klees, will share updates on Woodcrest and what has been happening during the pandemic and how people can be praying for the ministry.

#### Outdoor Concert - 7 PM

Finally, at 7:00 everyone is invited to the upper ballfield for an amazing night of music and faith as **Commandment 11** takes the stage. This group bases their original songs on Scripture and uses it to minister in prisons and rehabilitation centers up and down the east coast. You will enjoy their stories of God's

redemptive power and their music as it touches your soul. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit out on the ballfield during the concert.

#### Camp for the Weekend

Consider making a weekend of it by reserving a campsite and enjoying the pool, hiking trails, and all that Woodcrest has to offer. Call the office for dinner or campground reservations. An offering will be taken to benefit Woodcrest's summer ministry.

## Woodcrest Offers Hope & Healing



We are giving thanks to God for the opportunity that Woodcrest has this summer to share Christ's love. With many camps choosing to cancel summer camps because of the challenging circumstances of the pandemic, the Woodcrest Board of Directors was committed to being ready to run camp when we were permitted to do so. Because of that determination and our preparation, when we got the okay to run camp on May 29<sup>th</sup> from our Governor, we put our plans into action.

The first campers arrived just two weeks later on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Since announcing our opening of summer camp with a video that was viewed by over 10,000 people on our Facebook page, we have been busy. Our amazing team in the office has been handling calls, wait lists, cancellations, and lots of questions. Although we are bit below last year's number of campers, most of our weeks have been nearly full using our lower enrollment numbers.

The response from parents has been so encouraging (see some of their comments on the next page). We knew that campers would need the power of camp this summer

after being quarantined away from friends for over two months. We knew parents would want a safe place to send their children, whether for a week or for the whole summer, as they went back to work. But we were not expecting the overwhelmingly positive encouragement we have received.

We know that Christian camping offers a place for children to be children; where they can develop their imagination and grow spiritually. Our message of Christ's love is being used by God to change lives, to bring smiles to young people's faces, to instill peace, and to transform lives.

Although we are open, it is a very different summer. We are working hard to follow guidelines from various agencies and organizations. That means that schedules are very different, some traditional activities are missing, and parents are asked to wear masks, but the heart and passion of Woodcrest has not changed. We are still committed to providing a safe place where Christ's love is displayed through caring staff so that God's message of hope and healing can be heard by all who come.



## Thank You Woodcrest

We ask the parents of our campers to fill out a brief survey of their child's experience. That helps us make improvements and to continue to offer a quality program that meets the needs and expectations of parents. This year the comments have been such a blessing. Although we cannot print all of them, here are a few quotes that have encouraged us through this hard time and can hopefully encourage you as you support and pray for Woodcrest.

- **This was [my son's] first day camp and when he came home Monday, he asked to sign up for overnight camp. With the isolation he felt the last few months, he really loved meeting other kids. Thank you!**

- *My son has been feeling the deficit of time spent with his peers. He has been much more lively this week—having had fun with other children.*

- **Our daughter was do depressed since school closed. It often left her sleepless with nightmares. Camp has made her come alive. She has been happy and carefree all week and is now sleeping through the night again! She also is able to recite Scripture and loves God. A huge thank you to all that put their time and effort into being with all the children. You are truly making a huge impact on their lives! God bless!**

- *After being confined to home for three months due to covid, it is nice to see that my daughter is back to her normal, social self. I love that she can interact with others while building meaningful relationships and making new friends while staying safe. I really look forward to the stories she shares with me about how much fun she had at camp. It is definitely one of the biggest highlights of my day.*



## A Special Thank You!

*It is with a grateful heart that Woodcrest says thank you to two amazing team members who are stepping down from their positions this fall.*



**Carol Martin** has been a vital part of Woodcrest serving along her husband Cliff. There is not a part to the ministry that she has not influenced with her compassion and discernment. She has served for 27 years in the office, most recently as our Administrative Assistant managing payroll and finances as well as being our summer camp registrar (a position that she has filled well). Carol's heart for Jesus shines through her sacrificial service and gentle smile. Her help during the leadership transition has been invaluable. She leaves the team to spend more time sharing Christ's love with her growing family of grandchildren.

**Doris Beachy** answered God's call to return as our receptionist at a very challenging summer. We had been shut down for two months and were beginning to reopen. We needed a knowledgeable person who could step in and fill this position. God opened the door and Doris walked through and has performed miraculously this summer managing all the changes that have taken place. We are thankful for the season that God has brought her to Woodcrest. She leaves to return to her job she had before the shutdown and to follow what God has for her next.

## New Position Open

Woodcrest is looking to add another valuable member to our year-round team. As we reexamine our needs to keep moving forward, we are looking for an Office Manager. This would be a 30-35 hour per week position (with additional hours possible during the summer). This person needs to be motivated and friendly. The Office Manager needs to have familiarity with QuickBooks and the ability to manage accounts payable and accounts receivable and to complete payroll. This person would function as registrar by working with guests to reserve facilities, retreats, as well as events and summer camps.

As Office Manager, he or she would facilitate camp communications including greeting guests, answering phones, responding to emails, keeping our database up to date, sorting mail, and helping to coordinate volunteers.

A complete job description can be found on our website or you can call Bill at 717-738-2233 or email him at Bill@Woodcrestretreat.org. We are seeking to fill this position by the end of August.

## Bringing Families Together

*This past spring we were able to offer our annual Father/Daughter canoe trip and Father/Son campout. Both events happened at the beginning of our reopening after families experienced the shutdown caused by the pandemic. For many families it was their first event out. The sentiment shared by the dads was excitement at being out with other dads, enjoying God's creation, and providing a positive experience for their children. We are hoping to add new parent programs that are designed to strengthen families and provide opportunities to create lasting memories. Look for details coming this fall.*



The **Father/Daughter** canoe trip was rerouted to Blue Marsh because of transportation limitations. We had a full group that spent the day sharing stories, paddling canoes, and enjoying some good food. A devotional time helped fathers and daughters to remember God's past blessings, especially during hard times where He may seem distant.



During the **Father/Son campout**, they studied about their identity in Christ and what that means for us as we follow Him. During the Saturday morning chapel time, dads helped their sons create a family shield that showed important aspects of their family story. Hatchet throwing and team building challenges were a part of the event, too, helping to make this a memorable experience for everyone.

## 3D Benefit Archery Shoot

**Woodcrest Retreat will hold its 11th Annual 3D Benefit Archery Shoot on Saturday August 29, 2020.**



Archers of all ages are invited to attend and enjoy testing their skills on the 30 target course. With a wide variety of animal targets and shooting angles, this will be sure to prepare you for the upcoming hunting season. For the registration fee of \$25.00 for adults (under age 16

only \$15.00) you will enjoy a hearty hot brunch at 10 AM during which time you will be encouraged spiritually by speaker Brian Martin. You will have a chance at various door prizes and have time to peruse the various exhibitors.

The course opens at 7AM but closes during the brunch and speaker time before reopening again. In the afternoon archers may shoot

the course for a second time at a reduced rate. Come enjoy a fun Saturday preparing for the upcoming archery season while supporting the summer camp ministry of Woodcrest.

Registration is preferred for planning purposes, but walk-ins are accepted. Register online at <https://www.woodcrestretreat.org/events/benefit-3d-archery-shoot> or call by calling the camp office.

## Special Recognition



Cliff Martin stepped out of his role of Executive Director on December 31, 2019. Plans to honor his 30 years of service to Woodcrest at our Spring Banquet were put on hold when we had to cancel the banquet. Look for a special feature in our fall newsletter where we will highlight the accomplishments that Cliff lead Woodcrest through during his time of service. We are planning on honoring Cliff during the Summer Celebration Picnic on August 1st at 6:00 in the Indian Rock Center.



**Camp at Woodcrest!**

There are still some openings this fall in our campground. Come experience the great outdoors for a weekend by reserving a campground site and enjoy the crackling of a campfire and the beauty of God's creation.



Keep updated on what is happening at Woodcrest by liking our Facebook and Instagram pages. You will find lots of pictures, funny videos, upcoming events, and inspiring content to help you grow in your faith.

