

WOODCREST Whisperings



Spring/Summer 2021

Expecting Great Things

By Bill Klees, Executive Director

We had a great time at our Celebration Banquet in April. We are thankful for those who were able to come out and celebrate with us. One of the things we highlighted at the banquet was a quote from missionary William Carrey. He once said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." We are definitely expecting great things from God this summer.

Normally at this time of year, we are pushing summer camp as we reach out to churches and families to fill openings. However, this summer we are currently over 95% full (that is over 1,800 campers)! We are not only expecting God to do great things, we are attempting great things **for** Him.

As you read this newsletter, we ask that you take a moment to pray for God to prepare the hearts of the

campers. Pray that God would use the unique setting of Woodcrest to impact their lives as we present them with the power of the Gospel.

It is our desire to create a space where individuals, families, churches, and organizations can come and experience the wonder of God. It is a place where the peace and presence of Christ can be felt and enjoyed.

In addition to your prayer support, your encouragement, financial

gifts, and volunteering helps us to be a sanctuary for many. You are making a difference in the lives of many at a time when the peace of God is so badly needed. Thank you for all you do for the Kingdom of God.

**"Expect great things
from God; Attempt
great things for God."
WILLIAM CARREY**

Campground Expansion Completed

At the beginning of April, our seasonal campers began to settle into new campsites for the summer. Last fall Woodcrest broke ground on a campground expansion. Ten new sites were created for seasonal campers. All ten sites were quickly reserved. Coming later this summer to our campground will be a new log cabin providing another way to enjoy family camping at Woodcrest. Keep watching for updates. In the meantime, be sure to reserve your campsite for this summer and enjoy all that Woodcrest has to offer.



A special thank you to our Operations Director, Jason, who oversaw the entire campground expansion.

Woodcrest Pool Parties

Another great way for you to enjoy Woodcrest this summer is to attend a Woodcrest Pool Party. On the second Thursday in June, July, and August, you can come and have fun at the pool with lots of special activities. There will be Christian music playing, delicious snacks available at the snack bar, and crazy games throughout the evening with prizes.

Woodcrest Pool Parties are open to everyone for the cost of \$3.00 per person. The pool opens at 6:45 and closes at 8:30. The dates are June 10, July 8, and August 12th. Check out our

website for complete details.

You can also schedule a private pool party which gets you two hours in our refreshing pool. Prices vary depending on the size of the party and most evenings are available. You can also schedule a private waterslide event. Combine the two for a special church event or family reunion that people will remember for years to come. Download an application from our website or call the camp office for availability.



Alumni Event

Quinquennial—that's a big word that simply means "occurring every five years." That is when Woodcrest holds a massive summer staff alumni cookout. 2021 is that year (actually 2020 was supposed to be that year, but we don't need to say anything more about that).

The Alumni Cookout provided an opportunity for past staff to reunite for an evening of great fun and delicious food catered by Big John's BBQ. In

addition, there were games, a bounce house, hatchet throwing, waterslide, and a S'more-gasbord was included..

The whole event was free and a way for us at Woodcrest to stay connected with former staff and share updates about what God is doing.

This year's event was held May 23rd at the Poplar View Pavilion. If you are a former staff member and did not receive an invitation, send an updated address to the camp at info@woodcrestretreat.org or give us a call.

Fall Family Fun Fest

There is a new event coming this fall to Woodcrest Retreat. We are excited to announce the first Fall Family Fun Fest. This is a weekend of fun for everyone.

On Friday, September 17 there will be a Food Truck Festival featuring hand selected trucks offering a wide range of local favorites. Friday evening also features our annual live auction. We are blessed to have donations from over 100 local businesses as well as other specialty items, gift certificates, and baked goods. For the children, the waterslide will be open and there will be a campfire with s'mores.

Things kick off early on Saturday morning with an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake breakfast. There will be a 3K fun run, cornhole tournament, yard sale, as well as a craft sale. For the children, we will hold our poplar Kids Camp Bonanza which includes a bouncy house, face painting, crafts, games, and so much more (9:00-12:00).

The food trucks are also back on Saturday. Later in the day we will have a Disc Golf Tournament, Gaga Tournament, and live music. A silent auction of gift baskets will take place in the morning. In the evening there will be an amazing dinner catered by Rockin' J's BBQ followed by an outdoor concert.

Donations: If you would like to donate items for the auction or silent auction, please contact the camp office. We are looking for new items or antiques. We also are looking for donations of gift certificates, baked goods or specialty gifts.

Music: We are looking for church worship teams to sign up to play music during the afternoon. If your church would be willing to take a time slot, please contact the camp office to make arrangements.

Get more details, a schedule, and sign up sheets online. Look for a postcard to arrive later this summer. We hope to see you there!



Exciting Updates

Spring Banquet

We had over 225 people attend one of the nights for our banquet. The theme was “Extraordinary God” as we reaffirmed our trust in God for all areas of the ministry. We raised over \$32,000 and tithed \$3,200 to our Camper Scholarship Fund. Throughout the year we are setting aside 10% of all money raised at our fundraising events to help families attend summer camp.



Open House

Several families stopped by the camp on April 17th to learn more about Woodcrest, to meet the staff, and get familiar with the camp before coming this summer.

Benefit Golf Tournament

Like many of our programs this year, our golf tournament, which was held on May 13th, was full. 132 people helped raise funds to support our summer camp ministry.

Father/Daughter Canoe Trip

We have a full trip for this year's event on May 22nd. We are hoping to add additional trips in the fall.

Father/Son Campout

Like our other camps, the Father/Son Campout had a tremendous response. The bunkhouses are all reserved. Those interested in attending this June 4-5 event can still reserve a campsite.

Praises & Prayers

- Praise for the amazing response to this year's summer camps. Prayers that God would prepare the hearts of the campers to receive His love.
- Praise for the great responses to our fundraising events. Prayers that God would continue to raise up supporters who embrace our vision.
- Praise for the amazing staff that is serving this summer. Prayers that God would prepare them and use them to communicate His Gospel clearly.
- Praise for the great year round staff we have in place. Prayers for God to sustain them through the busy season of summer.

School of Wonder

The School of Wonder is our outdoor educational ministry that serves homeschooling families and schools. We offered seven programs this spring to homeschoolers as well as serving several school groups with customized fieldtrips. There were 65 families who joined us for classes in pottery, ecology, wilderness survival, orienteering, and animal tracking. We had nearly 60 people join us for a service day in April when



we accomplished a lot of spring cleaning chores. Learn more about future classes online.

A Bird's Eye View Coming Soon

Construction of the Raven's Roost began this spring. Thanks to the generosity of donors who gave above our initial need, we are able to continue construction despite the drastic increase in lumber prices. The playground expansion will give guests a bird's eye view of the valley below while offering exciting playground items like a fireman's pole, slide, and other future additions.



New Camp Store Opens

To better serve our guests, the camp office was renovated to include our camp store. This change allows for



additional store hours on weekends and for guests to browse the store when visiting the office. We are offering a whole new line of Woodcrest merchandise including sweatshirts, sweatpants, beanies, magnets, stickers, stuffed animals, tee shirts, water bottles, and more.



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1st Saturday BBQ's



On the first Saturday of June, July, August and September, we are hosting local BBQ favorites. Watch our social media posts for details.

Annual Archery Shoot

Our annual 3D Archery Shoot is going to be held this summer on Saturday, August 28, 2021. Participants shoot at a variety of targets in a fun and challenging course that features 30 targets. A registration fee of \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth 15 years old and younger includes a hot brunch and opportunity to win door prizes. The course is open from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM except from 10:00-11:00 over the brunch hour. Archers may shoot the course a second time for a reduced rate. You can register online at www.woodcrestretreat.org/events/archery or by calling the camp office. Information on being an event sponsor can be found on the event page as well.



Pictured above are Paula (left) and Doris (right) honing their archery skills. Paula serves as our Office Manager and Doris is our Program Registrar. When you call the office these are two of the friendly voices you will hear on the other end.

Be A Part of the Fun

There are opportunities for you to be part of what God is doing at Woodcrest by being a volunteer. We are looking for volunteers this summer to:

- Mow Grass
- Weed gardens
- Serve in the kitchen
- Help with mailings

Call the camp office to learn more or to sign up!

Something New!

Here is a Woodcrest first. In the camp store you can pick up your copy of our very first music CD. It contains 11 of our favorite camp songs including Romans 16:9; Pharoah, Pharoah; King of Me; Fruit of The Spirit, and Crazy Moose! The CD was recorded with the voice and musical talents of Woodcrest staff Adam Fox, Makenna Hurst, Avery Klees, and Noelle Voelker. Campers will love to listen to these songs throughout the year. Be sure to get your copy.



A COLLECTION OF YOUR FAVORITE SING-ALONG CAMP SONGS
 PHAROAH PHAROAH ROMANS 16:9 EVERY MOVE I MAKE AND MUCH MORE!