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# Experience the Wonder of God

Psalm 77:14

## Journey to Bethlehem 2021

Last year's Journey to Bethlehem was our biggest event yet, reaching nearly 2,600 people. During the past ten years, over 22,500 people have journeyed with Mary and Joseph in this live production. Just like previous years, we are making some modifications to keep our guests engaged in the story as over 70 actors and crew members (plus live animals) retell the events surrounding the biblical account of Jesus' birth. Mark your calendars now to join us for one of the four nights. It will help you see the true meaning of Christmas in a new and wonderful way. Based on the success last year, guests will pre-register online for a specific time slot.

## 2021 Dates

Friday, December 10 (6:00-8:30)

Saturday, December 11 (5:00-8:30)

Friday December 17 (6:00-8:30)

Saturday, December 18 (5:00-6:30)

### Register Online at

[www.woodcrestretreat.org/events/journey](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org/events/journey)

Cost: \$10/adults;

\$5 (children 4-16) / Free (age 3 and under)

## Current Needs for Woodcrest

- Used Pickup Truck
- Three Flat Screen TVs (43" - 63")
- 12 passenger van to use for our expanding Outbound program and weekend excursions
- Animal mounts or pelts for use with our nation programs



Jason Martin works with a student during last spring's OUTDOOR SURVIVAL CLASS.

## School of Wonder

The outdoor educational ministry of Woodcrest continues to grow and reach more students with the message of our amazing Creator. We offered a variety of classes for the fall semester and had several fieldtrip groups. This fall's classes included: Botany, Target Training, Catapults & Kingdoms, What's Wild, and Christmas Around the World. You can see the full schedule of classes online at [www.woodcrestretreat.org/education](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org/education)



# WOODCREST Whisperings

Autumn 2021

## We Witnessed Great Things

By Bill Klees, Executive Director

Our theme this year has been "Extraordinary God." We have highlighted that great quote from missionary William Carrey who said: "Expect great things *from* God; Attempt great things *for* God." It has been our desire this year at Woodcrest Retreat to attempt some challenging things and in each step we have witnessed our extraordinary God meeting our needs and moving us forward.

As you will read further, Woodcrest experienced the mighty hand of God moving in many different ways. What we experienced and accomplished this summer was not because the staff at Woodcrest is super special (although you have amazing people serving you here). The results that we witnessed are because we serve an extraordinary God who delights in displaying His goodness and glory.

Woodcrest experienced its biggest summer ever. We saw the completion of three significant projects this year (the campground expansion, the Raven's Roost, and the arrival of a new log cabin called Whippoorwill). The campground has had its busiest summer ever. We have been blessed by good attendance at our special events and fundraisers and have been privileged to serve many new groups.



It is such a joy to be a part of a ministry that is so healthy, so well supported, and so led by God. It is exciting to see the opportunities that God is granting to Woodcrest as we continue to seek Him and attempt great things for Him. A sincere thank you to all who have made and continue to make Woodcrest a life-changing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are truly making a difference in many lives.



## "Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow."

This is the first line of the Doxology. The summer staff sing this short hymn at the end of each week of camp, after all the campers go home. It is a dedication unto the Lord of everything that happened that week. Camp is a powerful tool that God uses to reach kids who would otherwise never step foot into a church. By praying the Doxology, we are asking God to sustain each camper as they go back to their lives and for Him to continue His work in them.

Continue on page 2: Summer

(Summer continued)

*"Praise Him all creatures here below."*

It certainly brings glory to God when the unqualified—remember, camp ministry is done by teenagers and young adults!—humbly offer themselves to be used by Him. **This summer 1,861 campers came through the summer programs** (nearly 350 more than ever in a summer!) Each of them heard the gospel truth that God loves and values them, and that they can personally know Him.

*"Praise Him above Ye heavenly hosts."*

There are moments in the summer where glimpses of heaven can be seen;

like when a group of campers ask to skip game time to continue asking questions about faith, or when a staff member sees God move in a powerful way for the first time in a child's life, or after Fireside chapel when campers stay back with their counselors to pray.

Luke 15:10 tells us that angels rejoice when even one sinner repents. This summer we know of 62 campers who made a decision to trust in Jesus for the first time, and 71 campers who rededicated their life to Christ. That is truly extraordinary!

*"Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen"*

*By Adam Fox, Program Director*

"You all run such a wonderful camp and the staff is awesome. I know my son's life was touched this week and as a parent I can't say thank you enough. God is blessing your camp and you are all in turn blessing children and families. Keep up the great work.."

~ Parent

"This was my sixth year, and I haven't grown as much any other place as I have here. Because of Woodcrest, I am a Christian. Woodcrest is one of the most important places in the world to me!! I'm so, so grateful for this incredible environment and I want to keep coming here forever."

~ Camper

Read more at [www.Woodcrestretreat.org/stories](http://www.Woodcrestretreat.org/stories)



## Special Events Raise Money for Summer Camp

Woodcrest has long made the decision to use special fundraising events to offset the difference between what we charge campers and what it actually costs to run summer camp. We are committed to keeping summer camp affordable so that finances do not keep people from attending camp. In total, this year's events raised \$71,000 toward our \$90,000 planned shortfall. From that, we tithed \$7,100 to our Camper Scholarship Fund.

### Benefit Golf Tournament

Like many of our programs this year, our golf tournament, which was held on May 13th, was full. 136 people met on a beautiful Ascension Day to enjoy their time together with friends while supporting Woodcrest. Thanks to several faithful supporters for organizing the tournament and covering significant costs associated with it.

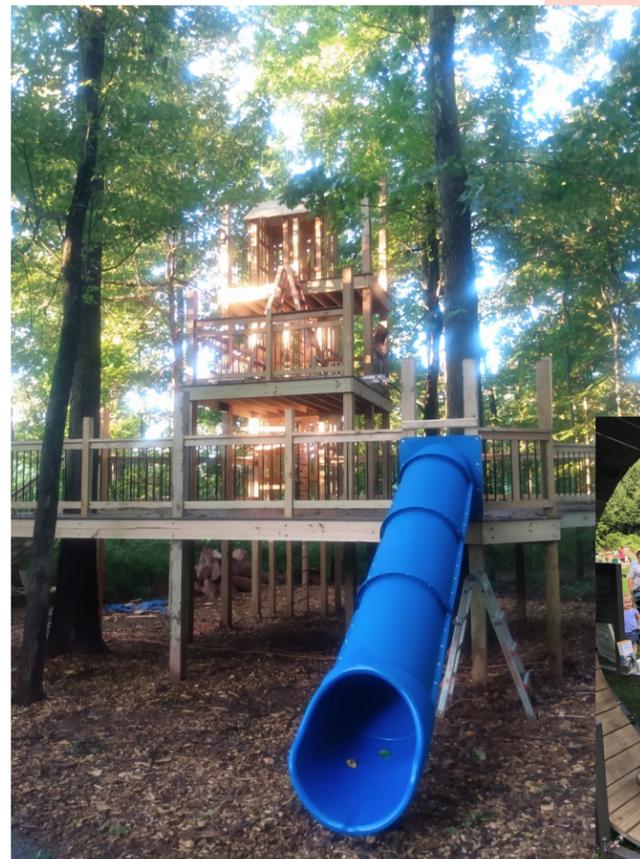


### Annual Archery Shoot

There were a near record 146 shooters for this year's event held August 28th. We saw a miracle when the forecast called for rain all morning but we enjoyed mostly clear skies all morning long. Special thanks to the Archery Committee who organizes this event and for those who donate the food for the delicious brunch.

### Fall Family Fun Fest

We rearranged and combined various events into one special weekend filled with fun, food, and fellowship. The Fall Fest featured a live and silent auction, food trucks, the Kids' Camp Bonanza, tournaments, and a BBQ dinner with a hymn sing. We had a beautiful weekend. This year's event debuted Trail Run, Cornhole, and Gaga Ball Tournaments.

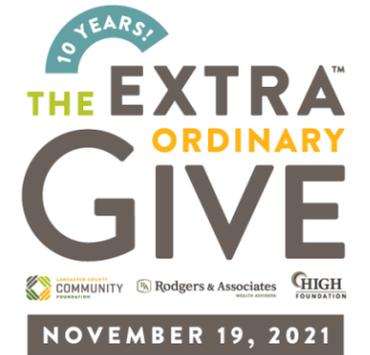


## Raven's Roost Ready

As summer camp continues to grow, it is important to keep the program and facilities updated and fresh. Part of a healthy camp is the ability to creatively add space that keeps campers and guests wanting to come back and anticipating what might be next. Our staff identified the upper playground as an area that needed attention. As a hub of day camp activity, the playground is an area in which we wanted to invest. What emerged from our discussion was a structure that enhanced our mission to get campers into God's creation. The Raven's Roost is a three-story treehouse that gives campers a bird's-eye view. But it is more than a treehouse. Incorporating playground elements, the Raven's Roost includes a slide, fireman's pole, and more. Future plans include adding a bouldering wall, tire swing, and tunnels. It is a structure that will naturally lend itself to continued development so that campers want to keep on coming back to see what is new. A special thank you to our Operations Director, Jason who designed the structure and led a faithful team of volunteers in its completion. Make sure you come and check it out this fall.

## Extra Give Event

Woodcrest is excited to once again participate in Lancaster County's Extra Give fundraising event. This year the date is **Friday, November 19th**. Throughout that day you will be able to go online and donate to Woodcrest as we compete for prizes and special gifts. Last year we raised over \$32,000 to support the summer camp ministry. Like last year, we are holding a special on-site event with our famous S'moregasbord, games, and more. All the fun



takes place around the Indian Rock Center from 6:00-9:00 with opportunities to support the ministry during that time. Keep watching our social media pages for challenges and updates in the coming weeks.

A DATE NIGHT, GIRLS NIGHT, OR JUST AN EXCUSE TO PAINT, YOU DECIDE.

## COFFEE AND CANVASES

Guided painting and a relaxing night for adults

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9  
7 - 9 PM  
INDIAN ROCK CENTER**

REGISTER AT  
[WWW.WOODCRESTRETREAT.ORG/EVENTS/CANVASES-AND-COFFEE](http://WWW.WOODCRESTRETREAT.ORG/EVENTS/CANVASES-AND-COFFEE)  
Free Childcare Provided ages 5-12

# Woodcrest's Summer 2021 Staff



As the summer staff pours into the lives of the campers, we are busily pouring into their lives. We are discipling them to be who God has called them to be and helping them develop life skills that they will use for His kingdom even beyond summer camp. We truly give thanks to God for sending us an awesome staff that served well during this packed summer. Here is our 2021 team:

**Bottom Row:** Brock Barshinger, Avery Klees, Asher Christner, Emilee Rockey, Mary Jane Stauffer, Brennan Hurst, Kailey Hurst, Jenna Zeiset, Ky'Le Cole. **Second Row:** Josie Groff, Stephanie Burkholder, Rachel Leaman, Caroline Baum, Abby Horning, Makenna Hurst, Alaina Martin, Mariah Brubacher, Hannah Martin, Jordan Zeiset, Emma Klees, Savannah Alarie. **Third Row:** Nate Waltz, Paula Leaman, Terry Stern, Matthew Good, Will Hilliard, Gregg Gattuso, Austin Martin, Joel Wenger, Jordan Weaver, Josh Kreider, Jason Martin, Adam Fox. **Fourth Row:** Doris Beachy, Caleb Horning, Kora Behrens, Jaedon Steager, Joel Wayde, Braden Buckwalter, Nolan Deck, Micah Martin, Cordell Gingrich, Bill Klees. **Top Row:** Becca Rissler, Kate Prothero, Elena Hurst, Elizabeth Martin, Laura Fischer, Lauren Nagy, Faith Landis, Kendall Furman, Bevalee Tshudy, Hope Martin. **MISSING:** Dan Makowski, Christopher Weaver, Josiah Gehr, Corrine Reed, Ashton Melendez, Felicia Prydzial.



## Words from Our Summer Staff

"This summer at Woodcrest I learned to step out of my shell and be comfortable in the awkward. I am so much more comfortable talking about my faith and I am now able to bring it up in conversation. For example, once I had two campers arguing, so I pulled them each aside separately. I was able to explain to them what grace means and how God shows it to us. Before this summer I don't think I ever would have been able to do that."

"A camper had forgotten his swimsuit at home, so when it came time for the pool, he had to sit out. I wanted to go in so I told him to just sit at the side and wait during pool time. God had different plans, and I ended up misplacing my own swimsuit and not being able to go in the pool. This gave me a chance to talk about the Gospel with my camper. That day the boy without the swimsuit came to Christ."

## Amazing Volunteers



Woodcrest is so thankful to the more than 200 volunteers who served at Woodcrest during this past summer. From kitchen to mowing grass, from Bible teachers to summer helpers, our amazing volunteers keep the ministry of Woodcrest reaching campers with the love of Jesus.

This summer we celebrated a huge milestone for one of those faithful volunteers. **Luke Weaver** has been serving at

Woodcrest for the past ten years. During those years, he would do all sorts of maintenance jobs to help our staff. Coming twice a week, he would work in the shop often fixing golf carts during the summer months so that our staff could get around camp. This past June Luke turned 90. We honored his more than 4500 hours of service with a special lunch.

Another amazing volunteer is **Sylvia Eberly**. She started volunteering by mowing grass in 2004 and is still one of our dependable mowers that keep our grounds looking nice and inviting for our guests. Thank you Sylvia for all that you do.



## Your Staff Family

So much has happened in the past two years including a few staff changes at Woodcrest. Although it has been challenging, God has met our needs and positioned us to thrive as an organization. God has put together a team here at Woodcrest that has risen to the challenges and is ready to follow God wherever He may lead next.

**WELCOME:** **Micah Martin** stepped into a new position in August as our Program Assistant. Micah is not new to Woodcrest having served six years in a variety of summer roles. Most recently, he was our Overnight Camp Director. His position is focused on program support including managing our registration system, summer logistics, and assisting with School of Wonder and other Woodcrest programs. You can welcome Micah by emailing him at [Micah@woodcrestretreat.org](mailto:Micah@woodcrestretreat.org).



Bottom: Jason Martin, Paula Leaman, Micah Martin, Terry Stern, Doris Beachy, Bill Klees

Back: Adam Fox, Gregg Gattuso, Natalie Klees, Heather Klees

Not Pictured: Dawn Wenger and Danisha Wenger

## Winter Camps Coming Soon

Woodcrest continues to grow to meet the interests of our guests. We now offer three different winter camp events:

- **FREEZE** (ages 12-15) - December 28th: 3:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
- **BLAST** (ages 6-9) - December 29th: 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
- **FROST** (ages 9-12) - January 15th: 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

**END OF YEAR TAX RECEIPT:** Woodcrest Retreat is a 501c3 religious Not-for-Profit. All gifts and donations are tax deductible. Woodcrest will be emailing out year-end receipts that will include the total amount donated in 2021. To be sure you receive your receipt, you can verify your correct email address by emailing our Office Manager at [Paula@woodcrestretreat.org](mailto:Paula@woodcrestretreat.org). As always, thank you for your support and prayers.