



225 Woodcrest Drive  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
(717) 738-2233  
[www.WoodcrestRetreat.org](http://www.WoodcrestRetreat.org)  
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EPHRATA, PA 17522  
PERMIT NO. 75



### Canoes Needed

The canoes at Woodcrest Retreat get used a lot during the summer for campers and the Father & Daughter Canoe trip. We also have future programming ideas. However, some of the canoes that we have been using for the past 15+ years are no longer as watertight as we want them to be. We need to begin replacing them with newer (less leaky) canoes. If you have a canoe sitting in your garage or in your backyard, would you consider donating it to Woodcrest. We need at last four for this summer and what we do not get donated will have to be purchased (at a significant expense) so that we can run our programs this summer. All donations are tax deductible and will receive a receipt and thank you note showing our gratitude.

### Please Pray

- Pray for God to bring us the quality staff needed to run summer camp
- Pray for the Board of Directors as they navigate the ministry through this next phase of growth
- Pray that God would prepare the hearts of the campers who will attend this summer

### Current Needs

- Two Flat Screen TVs (43" - 63") to use in meeting rooms
- 12 passenger van to use for our expanding Outbound program and weekend excursions
- Summer Weekend Hosts to serve during the summer (call the camp if interested)
- 4 canoes (without holes)

### Join the Woodcrest Staff Team

We currently have seasonal openings on our Woodcrest team. Please contact the camp office or visit online if you are interested in learning more or applying to join us in serving our Savior.

- Campground Manager—This new position will have oversight of our popular campground and weekend groups. This is a seasonal position running from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- Seasonal Office Assistant—Things really ramp up in the summer. There is a need to have an extra person in the office answering phones and assisting with the camp store and more.
- Summer Staff—There is a need for passionate Christ-followers to serve on our summer camp staff.



Winter 2023

# Pursuing Mission

By Bill Klees, Executive Director

In seminary, I had a class focused on the mission of the church. We looked at what is the ultimate mission of the church as well as how to create a mission statement and evaluate the activities of the church to make sure they meet that mission. We spent a unit on the topic of missional drift. We learned that within 10 years of starting, a majority of organizations drift from their original mission. This drift can become a significant problem when an organization gets lost or bogged down in activities that are not related to their primary mission.



Over the past few years we have spent time as staff and board members thinking through how our mission directs the ministries we do. A proper understanding of our mission guides our building projects, the addition of new programs, our promotional pieces and even the staff we hire.

At Woodcrest we have divided our ministries into six core areas, making sure that each is directly connected to our mission. We desire that everything we do be focused on Jesus Christ

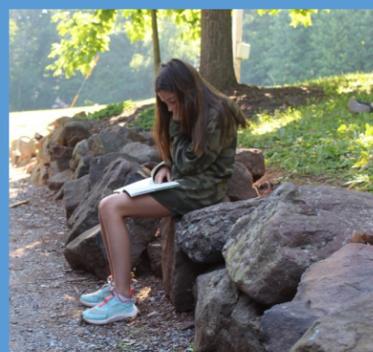
and emphasizing creation (getting people outdoors) and community (bringing people together).

This process is particularly important as we get ready to announce some big things at this year's Celebration Banquet. We invite you to join us on March 30th for a night of

celebrating the great things God has done in the past year. As friends and supporters of the camp, we want you to know what God is doing through your prayers, gifts and service.

We will enjoy a great meal together (in community) and then unveil the results of two years of praying and evaluating. God has opened up a great opportunity that is driven by our mission and purpose. We want you to be a part of it. You can call the camp office or register online at [www.woodcrestretreat.org/banquet](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org/banquet). We are gathering in our beautiful Indian Rock Center (surrounded by creation). Reservations are free but space is limited.

The mission of Woodcrest Retreat is to introduce people to Jesus Christ and encourage Christian growth through programs and partnerships that emphasize creation and community.



## Summer Camp Since 1969

Woodcrest has a long history of offering quality summer camps. The first camp was started in 1969 by a team from Ephrata Mennonite Church. Until 1997, they would offer up to three weeks of day camp. In 1993, Woodcrest added their own official day camps which were eventually expanded to the eight weeks that is now the heart of our summer program. It was in 1996 that we offered the first full week of resident camp.

As we prepare for summer 2023, the heart of summer camp has not changed, even if the activities and schedule have been tweaked. What began with six staff in 1993 will be over 70 this summer. We anticipate that we will once again serve nearly 2,000 campers over the course of eight weeks of camp.

New to our summer offerings is an additional week of our popular River Rumble Outbound trip. Outbound trips provide an offsite adventure for older campers. We have also revamped our popular Wilderness Day Camp to become a specialty week that provides participants with a unique experience. Our 2023 theme is Super Sleuth Camp and features a week-long, crime solving game and special guests from local protection services.

## New Shower House Project

We were excited to announce in December the plan to construct a new shower house. The current "bath shack" was built as a temporary structure in 2007 as God was growing Woodcrest's overnight program. For the past few years, this building has become increasingly inadequate for the number of campers and guests that are using it. We need to consistently have the septic tank emptied at least twice a week (which is a significant expense).

The construction of a new shower house is the first phase in a multi-phased plan. This building will now include showers (eliminating the hike to the pool house) and will be handicap accessible. Anyone who has used the bath shack will surely appreciate this modern, bright, and easy to clean shower house.

The projected cost of this first phase is \$350,000, which includes, not only the construction, but also excavation and laying of water and sewer lines for this building as well as future development.

During our year-end campaign, we raised almost half of that amount. We are still inviting friends to contribute toward the project, and will use the offering at our Spring Banquet to hopefully complete the fundraising for the first phase and kickoff the second. If you want to help us reach that goal, you can send your tax-deductible gift to Woodcrest with "Shower House" on the memo line. You can also visit our website and give online. Our desire is to have this phase completed by the beginning of summer camp.



## Fireside Chats

### Connecting with Woodcrest's Legacy Builders

A key way for a ministry to stay focused on its mission is to hear from the voices that began that mission. We are excited to be posting videos of interviews with legacy builders from the past and present. We have already conducted nearly 10 of those videos reaching back to the early days of camp and stretching to more recent leaders and partners. Look for videos from J. Elvin "Pops" Martin, who was instrumental in the beginning of day camp in 1969, and Cliff and Carol Martin, who led the ministry for nearly 30 years. Be ready to hear inspiring stories of how God overcame obstacles and the many ways that God has worked to change lives for His glory.

You can find these videos and other exciting articles on our new blog page on our website. We will also post links on our social media pages and place them on our YouTube channel. The goal is to help the current recipients of Woodcrest's legacy hear and be inspired by those who help made Woodcrest the ministry that it is today.

## Up Coming Events for 2023

*You can get more information and register for events online.*

- \* **Truth Summit (February 24-26)** - This weekend retreat for high school students will equip teens to think biblically in all areas of life. It is designed for ages 14-18.
- \* **Ministry Leaders Summit (March 14)** - In our desire to partner with local churches and ministries, we are excited to offer our first day-long conference designed to equip and encourage pastors, church staff, and ministry leaders. There will be speakers and small group gatherings as we hope to bring together a wide range of ministry leaders who have a heart for the kingdom of God.
- \* **Senior Day (April 18)** - We are bringing back a version of Woodcrest's previous Senior Day. We are pleased to offer a morning of good food and great fellowship. There will be Haus and Rook games plus bingo. The Lititz Area Mennonite School Choir will also perform. This is a free event but reservations are requested by calling the office or visiting our website. Breakfast and snacks will be provided.
- \* **Golf Tournament (May 18)** - Our annual golf outing is a great way to enjoy the company of others and the great outdoors with the bonus of amazing food. This is Woodcrest's biggest fundraiser that helps support our summer camp program. Sponsorships are available.
- \* **Archery Shoot (August 26)** - This event is a great way to brush up on your archery skills as you enjoy an inspiring speaker and a delicious brunch, all while supporting Woodcrest.
- \* **Fall Family Weekend (September 15-17)** - Come to Woodcrest for a weekend of camping and fun.
- \* **Fall Family Fun Fest (September 16)** - It is a whole day of fun for everyone. There will be lots of food, games, a silent auction, and more in store for this growing event. We have added a benefit concert in the evening featuring Dove-award winning artist, Steve Green. Look for tickets to go on sale later this spring.