

Summer Newsletter 2012



Highlights of the summer and memories brought back to life

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 (RSV)

On the 24th of June after much prayer along with the hard work of countless people, addressing what often seemed to be endless tasks, requiring renewed focus and redoubled emphasis on so many issues, and after much more prayer, we again welcomed children from Sandwich to Austria, from Barnstable to Houston, from France to Mexico to Camp Good News for the 2012 season. Whether swimming in Snake Pond, sliding down the "Iceberg," sailing, fishing, canoeing, archery, tennis, soccer, arts and crafts, jumping off the boardwalk, or singing around a campfire, the aim has been to have fun!

Our staff from all around the world arrived two weeks before the children came and did a great job both preparing the physical plant and, more importantly, themselves to be committed to the campers always with a supportive and encouraging spirit based on the foundation of Christ's love. The pre-camp time was filled with training sessions that addressed a multitude of topics such as Red Cross swimming instruction, homesickness, and child protection. National and local experts in child safety were enlisted to help us in this regard.

Finally the children arrived...

One such child was Edmund. He and his sister have attended camp for the last four summers. It has been great to see both of them grow and mature. Their grandparents recently wrote:

"You may remember our grandchildren... They certainly remember you. They think that you are part of their extended family. They continue to talk about all of their very positive, vivid memories of Camp Good News throughout the years... They are now 12 and 13 years old and so at a

very critical point in their lives, a part when an opportunity to return to positive Christian values in a climate of loving and caring people and mentors like those at Camp Good News will positively impact them for the rest of their lives... They very often refer back to the people and events experienced at Camp always with fondness and always with a desire to return. We can't thank you enough for reaching out to our grandchildren and believing in them over the years as we feel it has absolutely made a huge difference in their confidence."



This is why we are here. This is why, despite the challenges we face, we carry on. Children are worth it. As we pass on to the next generation a positive influence, we help give them a strong foundation for life. In so doing we invest in the future, theirs and ours.

Stephen W. Brooks, MD

"Coming back to camp for my fourth year was a great experience for me. Seeing all my friends was also great, but what I liked the most was sailing. Camp Good News is just a place where I can have fun and enjoy nature. I came back to camp because I enjoy going out on the boats in the waterfront, they give you the feeling of flying; I also like biking with my friends. All the activities here have to do with getting up and exercising. We've played kickball, capture the flag, and swam at the lake. During a time every day called "Free Swim" we can go to the snack bar, sailing, or swimming; you can swim on things called a hotdog, blob, and iceberg."

Edmund Carnevale - Age 12

"Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the LORD." Psalm 102:18 (RSV)

A Song That's Gone Through Generations



The Camp Good News song, written back in 1960 by Herb Hardie, is a wonderful way to represent the camp, since its words tell about the essence of this place and its purpose. Herb now 95 years of age, shared how he was inspired to write the song by people who would ask the staff or campers what was the Good News.

The Hardies taught music in New Jersey for nearly 30 years. He brought his family to camp for about ten years where he started a music program. Campers and staff were encouraged to bring their instruments along for the summer. The chorus would perform on Sundays when parents came to visit their children and attended worship in the outside chapel called "The Grove." Herb wrote other camp songs for the children in the Junior Choir such as "Up In The Morning." Singing is a common language for those who know how to listen and transcribe melodies into thoughts and prayer.

**Good News is our motto,
Good News is our name,
What is its meaning,
We'll tell you of its fame,**

**Good News is the gospel,
Of our Lord Jesus Christ,
That whosoever believeth in Him,
Shall have everlasting life.
That whosoever believeth in Him,
Shall have everlasting life.**

Camp Good News is our name!



Boating

My sunfish skims over the sunlit water,
While tiny fish dart from under the rudder.
A gentle breeze wafts through my colorful sail,
As my finger makes ripples in the clear pond.

I tack, while a gust of wind hits me right in the face.
My eyes soak up the scenery,
Dark trees, green grass,
The baby blue sky.

Cool air circulates around me,
As the sunfish dips and dives into the jumpy waves.
Water droplets splash all over the boat,
As a seagull caws.

The horn sounds,
And I head back after a day of boating.

Roxy - Age 12

A Family Camp Blessing

As a college student I came twice to work at Camp Good News; first as a counselor and then as the Arts & Crafts Director. At the time, I saw it as a great way to work with children and as an interesting travel opportunity, since I had grown up internationally as the daughter of missionaries. But the more experienced the goals and purposes behind the structured activities at Camp Good News, the more certain I became that what one experienced at camp was the real discovery to be treasured, and I decided that if and when I married and had children I would certainly attempt to bring them here.

Finally, In God's providential timing (and with the lovingly reluctant agreement of my husband), my daughters and I are experiencing a wonderful summer at camp, the girls as junior campers, and with the blessing of my being able to return as Arts & Crafts Director for the summer of 2012. Even though I have been absent from CGN for more than two decades, I am delighted to find that Camp Good News has stayed the course and remained steadfast with its lasting values and commitments grounded firmly in Christ's directives.

What are these treasured experiences at CGN that have lasted to this day and effectively continue onward?

First of all, in the way CGN provides an uplifting and encouraging Christ-centered, spiritually nurturing environment for both campers and staff. Another great accomplishment is the daily balance achieved between the

physical, social, spiritual, and skill activities, that brings the best out of the campers. (If I could only achieve a similar balance in my own household!) Also treasured is the sense of caring community or unity, regardless of the greatly differing backgrounds, nationalities, or even languages of the staff and of the campers – a bond forged by respect and care, prayer and challenges, worship and transformation. A rich treasure is to be found here at Camp Good News...

During morning chapel, a recently arrived violinist joins the guitarist and keyboard player, beautiful harmony floating from her strings. Campers and staff begin to sing. I take a moment to glance around me. Many eyes are closed. The campers are still, quietly experiencing authentic worship, some for the first time. A counselor with a slight hearing challenge signs the words to the song, her hands dancing beautifully with each worshipful word.

This is truly why I've brought my daughters here, not just for the daily balance of great adventures, plain old summer fun, and skill-growth opportunities, but to experience the rich treasure and blessing of daily worship with the unity of national and international people which only Christ and His wonderful grace can provide.

Blessed to be in His glorious presence,

Jamara Magers



**“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6**

The Gray Van

Good News is all about renewing. Our gray van has gotten a little bit rusty through the years and we consider this the most appropriate time for a change of vehicle. If you would be interested in helping us with whatever means is in your hands to achieve this goal, our campers will certainly appreciate your cooperation in providing safe transportation for their travels.



Camp was not just about children, but also those who ministered to them, the staff. After lunch a group of seniors referred to as the "Ladies of the Lake" would meet to swim across a narrow portion of the pond, fellowship, and pray together. To be sure, our staff came from all walks of life and ages. Classmates Drs. Alys Holden and Hope Brooks, nurse Ann Russell, and missionary Faith Willard all gave of their time and talents. Camp Good News continued to be a very special place for so many.

Letters of appreciation have already begun to arrive from parents wanting to sign their children up for next summer. Please consider how you might contribute toward this ministry and give as the Lord leads. We have had an amazing summer and pray that God supplies all that we ask and need.

Jane

Jane Brooks, MSN
President, The Society for Christian Activities
Director - Camp Good News

Hope Willard Brooks, MD
Jane's Assistant

Stephen Willard Brooks, MD
Vice President, Society for Christian Activities

Karen Carlson, PhD
Assistant Director

Faith Willard MS in Counseling
Director Emerites

Camp Good News
P.O. Box 1295
71 Route 130
Forestdale, MA 02644 USA
☎ 508 477 9731 📠 508 477 8016
✉ office@campgoodnews.org
Web site: www.campgoodnews.org