

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 106:1

Wow, what a summer. We have much to be grateful for and want to thank you for your prayers and support. Though there were many obstacles to face, after much thought and prayer we decided to open Camp Good News Day Camp this summer. I can only say it was a blessing to us the senior leadership, the staff, and the campers. We needed an extra week of orientation to properly prepare the staff for changes due to COVID: a fully outdoor program, fewer campers at the meal tables, family-groups in cabins, and lots of extra hand washing.

Some staff members could only come for one of the two sessions, but there weren't any gaps. Instead we were well covered on every front. Former campers like John Casagrande who first came in 1982 and Craig Bayer from 1996-2002, came with their wives to volunteer for three-week intervals. Vanco came in 1975 to work "on the farm" with Stan. He and his wife Martha returned this summer to work for five weeks. Maggie and her daughter Gabby started coming in 2017. This year they stayed for all of the second session. These "extras" made amazing contributions to the camp spirit while working with the children, in maintenance, and the kitchen. When all was said and done, we could do nothing but praise the Lord for providing for all our needs.



Maggie and Gabby

We were to have an eighty-fifth camp reunion this summer, and it felt like we did. The staff bonded in a special way and still encourage one another from afar. Kim D'Augusta Pomphertt first came in 1975. This year

she ran the camp kitchen and brought three of her daughters. Newcomers such as Jinglin and her four sons and Kamron (missionary to the Amazon) and his family added so much to the program. Regulars like Faith, Karen Carlson (1981-1984), Heather Murray (1976-1984), Hallie and Julie O'Neal (2006-present) could only marvel at the way new staff arrived when others had to leave.



Khloe and Aly

Even some local businesses stepped up to help. Once when the Hobie Catamaran tipped, I tangled the chase boat's mooring line in the propeller after retrieving the campers from the water. When the motor wouldn't start, a local marina sent out their mechanic to get it going again. The pediatric office next door was always ready to lend a hand whenever we called; but we rarely did!

That's the thing; the children seemed very healthy and excited about the program. They came ready for new adventures and often brought a smile to our faces. Their parents adjusted quickly to the new check-in procedures and were very pleased to return at 4:30 each day to pickup some very happy, sometimes exhausted campers. I don't know who was more tired by the end of the day, the kids or the staff.

Sincerely,

Jane Brooks



Unsolicited Letters From:

A parent:

Thank you so much for an amazing summer! Mia and Nicholas had so much fun and learned a lot (we even got them kayaks so they can continue with their new hobby after camp is over).

Please know Cesar and I are so appreciative of the hard work you and your staff put in to make camp a possibility this year – We can't say enough about it. You have a wonderful staff too! Love, Erin and Cesar

A longtime staffer:

I can't believe another summer has come to an end. Hallie and I enjoyed our work at the camp and already look forward to next season. Hallie and I grow every year in our love for the Lord. I truly believe that Hallie is the wonderful person she is due to Camp Good News and your love for her. Love, Hallie and Julie

A volunteer:

Allison and I would like to thank you so much for the amazing camp experience this summer. I feel so blessed to be reconnected with my Camp Good News family. I wish I had words to accurately reflect how special this has been for me. Please don't hesitate to call if you need anything at all. So gratefully, Craig

But Jacob replied, "You can see, my lord, that some of the children are very young, and the flocks and herds have their young, too. If they are driven too hard, even for one day, all the animals could die.
Genesis 33:13

A Bible story about the reunification of brothers Jacob and Esau says Jacob was overjoyed to be received kindly by his brother, but he knew it would be hard for the children and animals to keep pace with Esau. He wanted them to travel at their speed. Seasoned staff is able to consider what is best for the kids. It was wonderful to watch people like Sue Holland focus on those one or two campers who needed special attention to overcome their fear of the water or boating.

Captain Sue

With sailing being such a big part of the camp program, Sue Holland truly seemed like a gift from above. An upper level (7th-12th grade) math teacher at Trinity Christian Academy on Cape Cod and avid sailor, Sue was a natural on the lake with children.

Sue has sailed since the age of fourteen. Her father wanted a good relationship and bonded with her over sailing. Later, she and her husband raced Hobie Cats all over New England. Sue explained it this way:

I was free to be a boating instructor this summer because

of COVID. My son and I normally work at another camp that tends to have more indoor-based activities, and I didn't want to be indoors after suddenly becoming an online teacher. That was very stressful and made it a hard spring for teachers. My role at camp was so much fun that I often came back after lunch to take the children sailing again.

Sometimes God gives you what you want. He always gives you what you need. This summer has been the most restorative summer because what I needed was something I wanted, to be sailing again!

Working with children makes me smile; it makes me laugh. One of my favorite moments this past summer was with little Jacob. He would cry when he went out on a kayak by himself, but on one of the final days of camp, I had a little time and Jacob wanted to go on the Hobie. The wind was light, and he could laugh and talk with me. As the wind picked up, we started to fly. He looked around and had the biggest, most beautiful smile and laugh. It was amazing for me to be apart of that. Another time I was teaching Jay to sail, I grabbed the jib sheet and let him go. We started to go up on one pontoon, but we didn't tip. Jay was overwhelmed and just couldn't get over that he was able to do that. I didn't want another tip, my pride couldn't handle it. Instead, I saw through his eyes how excited he was with that near miss.

I love to see the world through the children's eyes and impact their future about what God has in store for them. This summer God gave me this gift. Not only can I do it for this one summer, but I can do this for the rest of my life. That's a huge comfort to me because I know life throws me curve balls, but God will be there for me.

Nurse Pat

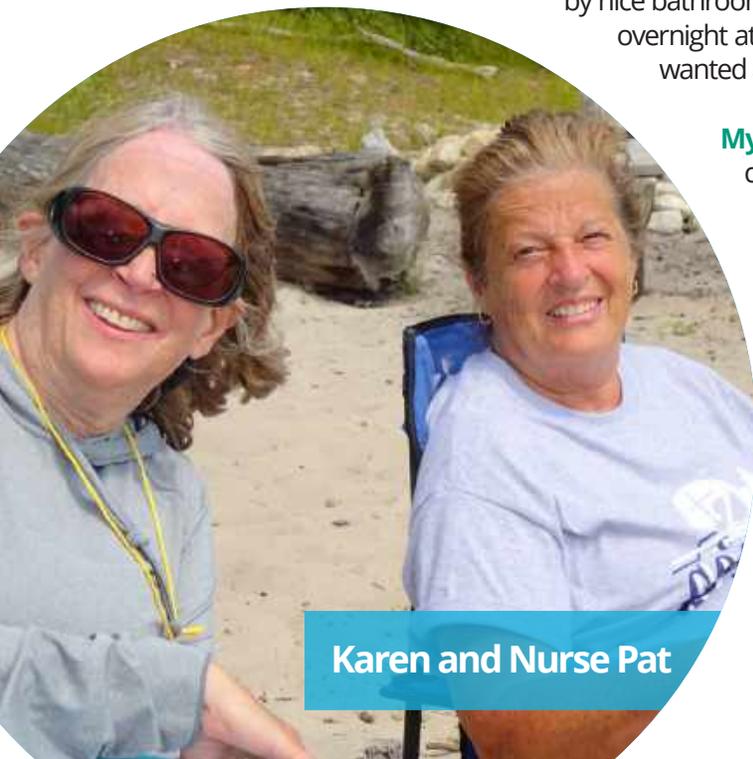
You really can't run camp without a good nurse, and with COVID pressing down on us this year; good nurses were invaluable in deciphering regulations and determining our course in many situations. Our nurses fielded the questions and kept the calm. Nurse Janet is a gifted organizer and kindly oriented the staff and set the pace for day camp drop off. It was fun to watch her in action. As usual, nurse Pat humbly followed through with Janet's directives day after day after day. She smiles when saying that her grandchildren bring her back to camp each summer.

Pat works at Cape Cod Hospital, and for the past four years she has faithfully enrolled three of her grandchildren in camp. They were sad we didn't have an overnight program, but like the other staff children they became a special part of the camp community.

Most of our staff were able to crawl into comfortable beds at the end of the day, surrounded by nice bathrooms, furniture and the Internet. I asked Pat why she sometimes remained overnight at the infirmary? She quickly responded, "because of the grandkids! They wanted and loved the experience of sleeping over."

My grandchildren enjoy camp so much, and as long as they want to keep coming, I'll try and make it happen. They enjoy being outdoors and meeting other kids. When we left the final Friday night Patsy started crying. It wasn't because of leaving that one special friend, she just loves camp so much, and said 'it went by so fast, can't we stay another week?' I see how much they enjoy it here. They don't complain about coming, getting up early, they just want to be here. They were proud of their accomplishments, and Eddie wants to see if he can get his sailing merit badge. The kids at camp are generally all really good kids.

As a nurse I like to nurture and help; camp provides good meals and exercise, and there were many wonderful people here like Karen who could actually talk to children and their parents as a professional psychologist when needed. We took care of the whole camper: physically, spiritually, and mentally."



Karen and Nurse Pat





Summer Bills Paid!

Much was done to ready the camp for the children. Last spring \$23,000.00 was spent on roofing and another \$11,800 on ceilings and shingling. Our brand new Hobie Catamaran was donated, and in fact donations came in this year to just about cover all our expenses to date! We are so grateful to the plumbers, electricians, and local businesses that selflessly take such good care of Camp Good News!

We are also very grateful to our dedicated parents, campers, and staff this summer. Their names will be forever linked to the summer of 2020.



No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

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

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

Karen Carlson, PhD
Assistant Director

Faith Willard MS in Counseling
Director Emerita

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