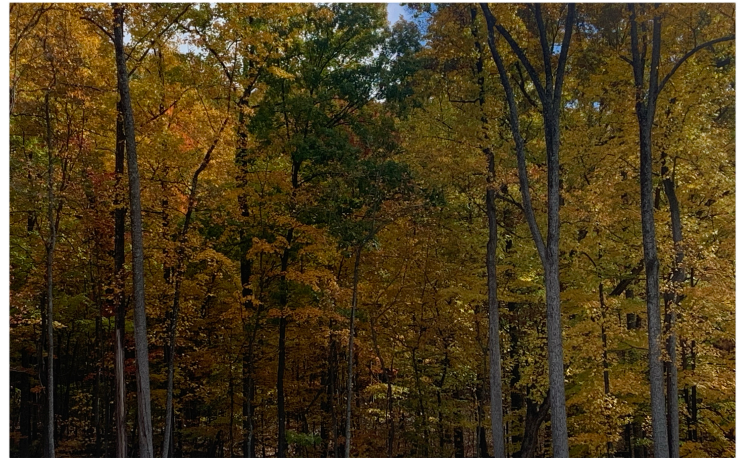


BACKWOODS BULLETIN



The thankful heart
opens our eyes to a
multitude of
blessings that
continually surround
us.



Psalm 100 "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: He it is that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.



How often do you think about how your singing is praising God and proclaiming your thankfulness for all His goodness to us, for the small part in the larger picture that we are filling? How often are we focused on how well I hit my notes, how mellow I am singing, how I am blending with others, how the (Continued)

inflection and tone of my voice is accenting specific points for overall affect, and how the overall sound as a group is blending and filling us with that satisfaction that comes with a job well done? How often do I notice the person beside me, notice how well they are getting their notes and how much volume they are putting out? Do I ever wish that they would perk up a little and care a bit more how good of a job they were doing? Do I hold back sometimes and maybe even lose my own energy because I feel that the others could be doing a better job?

Here at camp we have Sunday worship services out in Chapel. Chapel is an open air amphitheater with benches set into terraces out in the woods. Just like your Sunday worship services, we have opening, Sunday school, someone in charge, and singing.

Singing out in the woods as a group, with the wind in the trees and rustle of leaves and the sounds of nature all around, it can feel like you are singing all alone, even while sitting in the midst of a group of forty people. It can be a little intimidating, singing out and praising God, when you can't really tell what the rest of the group is doing. While leading a song a couple of Sundays back, I was wondering what the Lord had for us for a message. I was in charge; yet I had no thoughts as to what would be said, when I paused for a bit in my singing, and listened to the music coming from the group in front of me. While I was singing, I knew that they were singing and could hear it just a little; but when I stopped and listened, I was struck with the beauty of what I heard. A comparison to

life as we live it at camp became plainly apparent.

Sound travels a long way, and you can hear speaking and singing from quite a ways off when you are out at Chapel. But there is not a lot of acoustical feedback in the direct vicinity. It can feel really dead. That said, even in these surroundings, in this situation that we find ourselves in, each of us has a specific role to play. Some of our responsibilities are shared with others, and there are some things that we do as individuals that we alone are responsible for. As we do our part here at camp, we are in an environment that is still evolving and we, as yet, do not have all of our feedback loops and support systems firmly established. As things evolve, our responsibilities change, and we sometimes feel that we are alone in our daily battle.

How often in these surroundings do I wonder what other people are doing; do I wonder if they have thoughts about this? I see something that happens, and I jump to assumptions; shouldn't this have been handled differently? Do I find myself at times giving advice, bottling up some frustrations for dealing with later, talking about a situation to my closer associates? You know the dance. This isn't simply a problem that we at camp could face, this is daily life for each of us wherever we may find ourselves.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1. When we can simply do our part to the best of our ability, and trust that our brethren are doing the same, the combined effort comes together in a (Continued)

harmony that is very pleasant to the ears of God. Those around us can sense the beauty of the love and unity that is flowing and making our lives a joy to live. From time to time in life as we step back and observe the bigger picture as God sees it, we are amazed at the harmony that we ourselves can sense. Even though we know that there are likely those in the group who are not hitting the correct notes and who have gotten off the beat and are sort of doing their own thing from time to time, the overall song that we are singing as we live our

lives as unto the Lord, is a message of hope for the world around us and an encouragement for us as we face our day to day struggles. I am part of a bigger picture. My little part, even though it feels small and insignificant, is making a difference, and I am needed.
-Daniel Kaufmann

TODAY I SMILE BECAUSE...

October 7 was World Smile Day. Here are some of the things we came up with at Camp that make us

I'm at Camp.

I'm happy to be alive and
still kicking.

Homestay is soon.

I have a good group of people

West Virginia is
beautiful.

The food was good.

I like to do dot-to-dots.

I'm tall enough to touch the

Of the amazing weather.

What makes YOU smile today?



Chuckwagon 2019 - The year the property was purchased.

"Would you be interested and willing to be on the board of that new boys camp starting up in West Virginia?" The year before in 2019, I had toured the Bald Eagle Boys Camp at Lock Haven, PA., which piqued my interest. I accepted the position.

Many times as I travel those narrow roads or trails back to SCBC I relive and recount some of the details of the first time I set my eyes on the camp location in April 2020. Suddenly, we were plunged into unfamiliar territory, as far as coming up with a program, provide accommodations, and more, all to help young men. We as the board were grabbing for straws, all the while relying on and listening to Rueben Oberholtzer who, figuratively speaking, was plowing with mules. The first boy was scheduled to come in June.

We toured the wilderness camp facility of the Allegheny Boys Camp near Cumberland, Md.; Shepherds Fold in Lebanon, PA.; and Red Rock Refuge, a boy's rehab facility in S. Central, PA. We tried to absorb, tried to understand, sometimes setting goals, only to reverse the goals or the ways to do them.

Fast forward: Again, as I travel to the area for a board meeting, I recall how the gravel road to Camp has been improved; coming to 652 Wild Cherry Lane, the woodland opens up to a fairly

vast expanse due to lots of timber clearing, a new and improved driveway, large parking area where you can view the continued improvements of the landscape, and more. There's a new shower house. Enter the chuckwagon and meet the smiling cooks who are clearing the counters of the breakfast dishes, cooks, who testify of receiving great rewards for their time of service. In the dining area, there may be singing going on by the campers, chiefs, and camp staff; or a fellow board member is surrounded by a group of boys while he is checking out a scientific experiment or the science of any given object or subject. We see the chiefs take responsibility of their specified group, giving the physical touch in back rubs, hugs, and friendly bantering. At a given word, the campers and chiefs exit the chuckwagon to start the day's previously planned activities.

At the meeting we hear of the progress made due to the program or how progress is measured. We hear of the challenges and stresses the administrator and chiefs face. (Pray for them.) We hear of the need for more camp staff and accommodations in this rapidly growing "empire," education director, family worker, and more. (Continued)



Chuckwagon- 2022

We need more prospective chiefs, and the funds are slow in coming in. How is the progress of the new chuckwagon project (kitchen, dining room, office, etc.) coming along?

Lunch is being prepared. Chief Daniel's phone jingles; he glances uphill, sure enough, the Trailblazer campers are sitting on the Ready Logs in anticipation for the noon meal. At the dining table, the board members find seats between the campers where they can engage in conversation with their by-sitters, or groups of us listen to some of the board members tell stories of hiking on the Rocky Mountains or in the Appalachian ranges, or logging industry stories, and much more. Or, the boys will show us specimens of what they found and of their conducted research. As a whole, the young men are in a good mood. A tour outside, including the maintenance barn, shows the chief supervisor and maintenance man have everything organized and under control. Leaving the camp, I wonder, "Where are we headed? How long will the empire grow?" Yet, young men have found a relationship with God, have been prepared to integrate back into society, congregations, and families as a useful citizen, family member, and/or church brother. Will there be someone from the congregation who fills the place as a mentor and to whom the young man can confide in?

God, bless the entire camp staff, the program, and the campers. God, bless the young men and ladies who are feeling the tug and answering the call to service at a Church supported facility where, **"Difficult Circumstances Lead to Beautiful Destinations."** - Luke Peachey

From SCBC we want to thank the board members for their time and effort they have put into camp.

Sometimes it's work.



Sometimes it's play.



But ALWAYS TEAMWORK.



Chili Supper



Hayride Night



Apple Cider Time



Apple Butter Day



There's a beautiful place in the Appalachian Mountains where part of us stayed behind. A place where lives are being changed for the better. A place where serving doesn't seem like service because it is so rewarding. A place where you laugh and cry and everything in between. A place where you learn to know yourself better and work so closely with others that your hearts will always be intertwined. Back in March of 2021, soon after we arrived at the Sleepy Creek Boys Camp two robust young men moved in with us at 41 Highland Place, Berkeley Springs, WV. We developed a deep bond with these boys and often talked about heart matters besides having good times together. During the day, Jerry and the boys went to the wooded area where Chief Daniel Kaufmann had previously staked out a camp site that would eventually have eleven tents made and put up by hand. The first stones were moved and trees cut down, with dreams of an organized campsite filled with chiefs and young campers learning valuable and lasting lessons of life. The senior man came home more tired than hungry and the boys mostly hungry. We talked about the future, and that included graduation from the camp. "Miss Jane, will you and Chief Jerry still be here? If not, will you come back?" At that time, there were so many unknowns. They had goals to meet, hard things to face, and much had to happen before that red letter day.

Two campers who had met their goals were Andrew Schmidt and Kaden Troyer. Reaching these goals has not been an easy road. The date was set for October 11, 2022. Words cannot express the emotions of the evening. Besides telling these two

campers goodbye, the campers were telling Chief Ty Nickel; Leesburg, OH, goodbye. Imagine ten campers and their two chiefs spending nearly all their time together for a year, and on one day three of them leaving the group.

That evening, we also said goodbye to Chief Chester and Ms. Pat Wiebe; Buhl, ID, who had spent a year being house parents. Chief Chester is an electrician, and many of his hours were spent fixing what we had and making new in the house remodeled for Chief Daniel's family. Ms. Pat had provided clean laundry for the past year, worked wonders in the library, and used her sewing skills to make numerous items for the camp. We will never know all the good they have done behind the scenes and appreciate everything they have done.

Tuesday the 11th, dawned bright and clear with the promise of a beautiful day, and what a beautiful day it was! Ms. Sharon and I went and picked up some smooth flat stones that are in abundance along the edge of Sleepy Creek. Wrestling beautiful fall branches from trees along the roadside produced some hearty laughs. It seemed like a day made to order: the rippling stream with hillsides vibrant in fall colors. Our trusty maintenance man, Rylan Toews, and the innovative CDR volunteer, Daniel Stoll, exhibited much patience while realizing that women try many things before making up their minds. Strings of lights, lanterns with candles, golden cornstalks, many pumpkins in various shapes and colors, lush potted mums, colored leaves, hay bales, and other fall decor transformed the patio into a fall showcase. Using Landry Kaufmann's small Ford tractor with a trailer of sorts on the back, we made a beautiful place for the delicious apple crisp and ice cream. Besides the food and drink tables there was a hot drink bar with apple cider, hot chocolate mix, and coffee. The menu consisted (Continued)



of some of the best southern catfish you've eaten, warm hushpuppies, loaded Mac and Cheese, tasty baked beans, and apple saucy goodness in little cups, with mouthwatering warm apple crisp and ice cream for dessert. Everyone had their fill of everything. The cooks had some anxious moments after noticing how well the campers liked the Mac and Cheese the first time around and then the second time around. That's a favorite!

Andrew and Kade each received a wooden plaque with signatures on the back made by Andy Kurtz and Mervin Oberholtzer using the quote, **"Difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations."** How true!

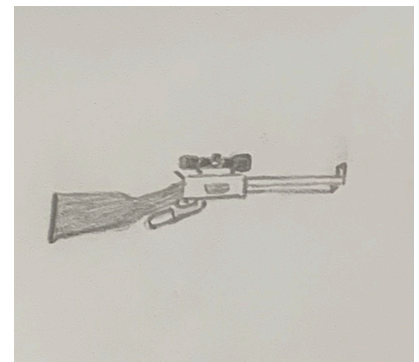
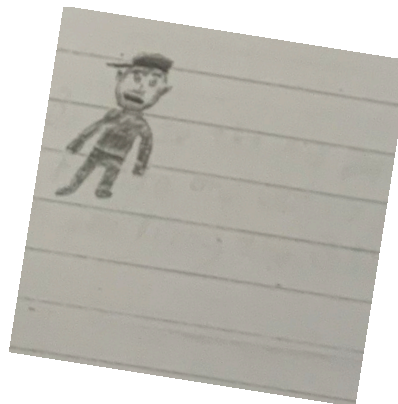
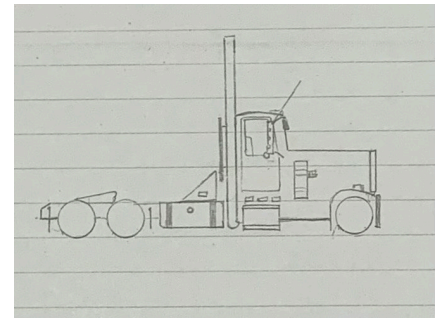
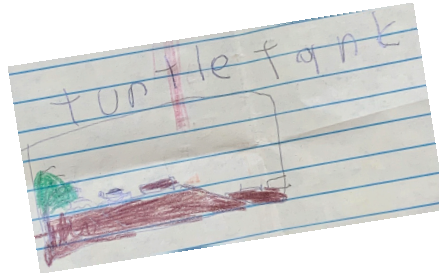
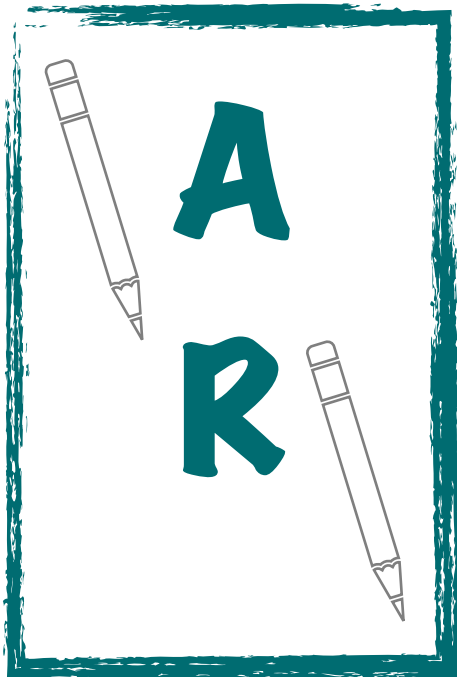
The moon was full and the fellowship great! We sat on square hay bales around little camp fires in six groups. The entire evening and especially the program presents a mixture of emotions. I could not stop the tears when the Trailblazers and Chiefs sang the song, "Lean on Me," one last time altogether and listening to the staff sing the farewell song, "Go Rest High." It holds so much meaning. When Chief Daniel presented the graduates their Certificate of Achievement, my heart, and I'm sure there were others, whose hearts nearly burst with pride. Listening to the campers and their parents give their thank you's makes the work worth it all. Chief Ty gave touching memories and encouragements

for all the campers and the rest of us. Ms. Pat had requested the song, "Walking Each Other Home," and in reality that is what we are doing in our own small way. I love Chinese lanterns, and at the end of the evening we sent them off into the darkened sky with wishes for a bright future. I am wondering, is it the ambience of the night sounds, of crickets chirping, the smell of wood smoke, the lighting, the full moon, the feeling of all working together, the sense of achievement, fellowship with like believers, good bye hugs; or what is it that just makes one so glad to be a part of this evening?

We all realize Andrew and Kaden will go through hard times in the future, but they have the things they've learned at camp that will always help them through; and there will always be help available if they will ask from those who support them. We all wish them the best, and we send them off with lots of love and expectation. God bless them well in the future days. Our prayers will follow them through life. You guys did great, and we are all so proud of you.

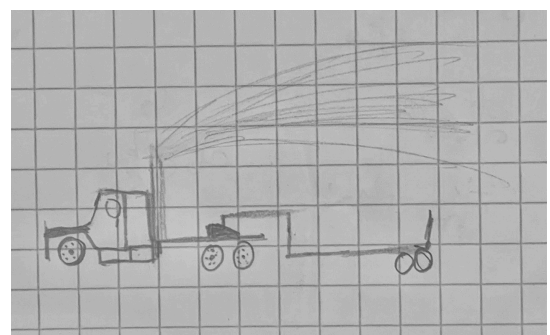
Also, God bless Chief Chester's and Chief Ty for the many hours they have given. God can reward you for your service much better than we can. Thanks for the good times. - Ms. Jane





**LIFE is the ART of
drawing without an
eraser.**

-John W. Gardener



THIS 'N THAT

Things I like and Remember about Camp

- * Ed night
- * Stone soup
- * Canoe trip
- * Pie Eating contest
- * I like the Chiefs and the Campers in my group.

- A Camper



Pie Eating Contest

Snoring and Sleeping

Snoring is a very funny and dramatic thing. You can only snore if you are sleeping. When you snore, you breathe through your mouth and suck in and breathe out with about 700 psi, and the guy on the other side of the world can almost hear you. Some people sleep loudly, some quietly, some slowly, some fast, and some dainty. I don't know anything about sleeping. It is about bedtime. Good night...zzzzzzz...

- A Camper



Sleep Tent

Canoe Trip

We packed up and headed out driving two hour to the Potomac River. We put in at the Antietam Creek. We started canoeing. We canoed down river and stayed night at Harpers Ferry. There was a man that gave us a roast. The second day we were canoeing, and we broke a canoe. There was a snake that went through my legs. I jumped about 3 feet out of the water! We got out and went to Chick-Fil-A, and then headed back to camp.

-A Camper



The bug collection.

CAMP FACILITY PROGRESS REPORT

New Chuckwagon-

Surveying has been completed, and the engineers are working on a site plan. We hope to have permits to build by the spring.

Cooks' House-

Bedroom in the basement is completed, and bathroom is being worked on.

Frontiersmen's Campsite-

Frontiersmen are working on completing Wood Tent.

Trailblazer's Campsite-

Trailblazers have completed getting their trail ready for winter. It will be much nicer this winter.

New House-

House renovations are almost complete, just working on the insulation and covering under the crawl space. Administrator moved in on Sept. 10.

Adjoining Property-

An adjoining property, one in between Camp and the Program Director's house property, is being bought. The paperwork is in the process. This will make it possible to add one more campsite in the future.

Country Roads Take Me Home...