

The Koinonia News

A Contemplation on the Life and Times of a Set Apart Place

A Sort Of Quarterly Newsletter

Issue #7 Winter 2011

A Challenge & Opportunity

Camp K. has been offered a chance to pay off our loan...

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Fire Protection

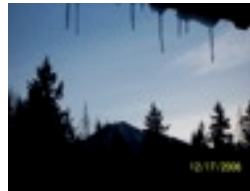
This past month volunteers placed a water line that will be used to provide fire protection...

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Summer Camps

Although winter has just begun to set in the time has come to get serious about this summer! Look what we're up to this year...

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December is a benediction...

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Challenge & Opportunity

A Little History

In 2006 Camp Koinonia had to secure a loan to help expedite construction projects which have made such a wonderful difference here. Before work could begin the road in to camp had to be brought up to County standards and the Leadership Cabin had to be modified to meet the Americans With Disabilities act. Both of these projects have benefited the camp in many ways. The road in to camp is safer as a result of these improvements. Also as a result of our work at the Leadership Cabin campers who would not normally be able to stay here have comfortable accommodations suited for their needs to look forward to upon their arrival at camp.

The hard work put in by volunteers and professionals has proven to be a blessing for both campers and staff alike. Its hard to remember this set apart place without these many improvements!

The Challenge

As the camp continues to improve it has become apparent we need to retire this loan



Presently the camp's loan is costing over \$20,000 a year which, as you might imagine, is a burden for a small nonprofit organization. When times are lean this loan is a weight and strain on the camps fragile budget. Thankfully God has given us an opportunity to pay our loan off!

A kind and generous benefactor has stepped forward with a challenge to the Camp Koinonia community. It is a challenge to everyone who uses this fine camp. Our donor has offered to match any donation up to \$100,000! What a blessing and opportunity this is. The challenge is good through the end of this year so time is short. All donations are tax deductible. If you would like to help retire our debt you can either send the donation directly

to camp or call the camp at 509-674-5767. Our prayer is to start the new year off with a loan burning party.

Fire Protection

In a previous edition of the Koinonia News it was reported that improvements would soon be underway to our irrigation system. Those improvements began this past summer when a cistern was placed in the ground. The cistern is four foot wide and eight foot deep. It is covered and locked to keep the curious safe. Overflow water from the pond fills the cistern. Last month the next step in this important project took place when over a thousand foot of pipe was laid.

We are pleased to report an important addition has been added to the irrigation project. Campers will note at either end of the water line there will be a small red building with the word **FIRE** emblazoned on the side. Inside the building will be fire hose donated by a local fire district. Should the need arise the camp will be able to respond to a fire emergency to assist our local volunteers.

We are very thankful to the volunteers who have helped with this project. Work on the water line is scheduled for completion this coming spring.

Publisher Miffed



The weary Editor approached the Publisher's door with a good measure of fear and trepidation, as well he should have. The text he'd received from

her was all caps, with an exclamation point added for good measure, "I WANT YOU IN MY OFFICE NOW!" The weary Editor lives by the code that nothing good comes from all caps, nothing good at all. None the less, he knocked and opened the door to her opulent office. "Two questions" she fairly barked, "What happened to the fall edition of the newsletter and what on earth's with this lattice work picture you want to use in this months edition? It looks like a deck that's caught fire." The questions, which hung in the air, were a bit like the Publisher, short and terse.

"Well ma'am" the Editor began, we tried to get the fall edition out but, well, you know there was this bad cold that everyone in the newsroom passed around and one of the symptoms seemed to be a collective writers block. We hope we didn't cause you any undue difficulties with our absence ma'am. As to the picture, well we like to believe we caught the spirit of Christmas blazing through the night sky. We might do a whole story on it, something with a tinge of woo-woo to it"

The spirit of the season must have fell upon the Publisher at that very moment based upon the blues, purples, and reds her cherubic expression displayed. Clearly she was caught up in the introspection and the Weary Editor thought it best to take his leave so she could have her special time all to herself. The Weary Editor was certain he heard the crash bang sounds of the season coming from the Publishers office as he walked to his car. Surely a Christmas bonus would be in his next pay envelope.

H.S. 20/20

Dedicated readers may recall, amid a celebration of pomp and circumstance the HindSight 20/20 weather forecasting system was unveiled in last December's edition of this newsletter. The staff is pleased to report the HS20/20 performed so well we will use it again this winter. Our first prediction of the season is the month of November will see 13" of snow fall at camp. Also we are predicting there will be a lot of ice at camp, a lot of ice. Chains are recommended for both car and shoe.

A Time To Retreat

Winter is a wonderful time to spend time at Camp Koinonia. Already snow is on the ground and more is surely on the way. For information on winter reservations please call the camp office.

Danger Trees

The camp took out a few danger trees near the Heritage Cabins recently. Most of the trees that were taken out were White Fir. The camp has had trouble with that particular species for some time now and it was decided to remove these danger trees now before they came down on their own accord with unpleasant results.

Important Summer Dates

Our partners in ministry, Cascade Camp Cedarbrook, will be holding their camps from July 7th-July 28th. They have three one week sessions, the first being boys week followed by two weeks of girls camp. Camp Cedarbrook has been accredited by the American Camp Association and puts on a stellar program. If you would like to find out more about Camp Cedarbrook's program please go to their website at www.cascadecampcedarbrook.com.

The Church of the Brethren will hold camp August 12th -August 18th. The Reverend Steve Gregory has been gracious enough to offer his services as Director for the Brethren week once again. We are thankful to have Steve leading the way again this coming year as he has done an outstanding job in the past.

Look for more information in upcoming editions of the Koinonia News.

With Regard To Counselors

The backbone of summer camping programs anywhere is found in its counselors. They provide guidance and leadership to young campers that will have a positive impact on their lives for many years. Were it not for counselors there would be no camps. Counselors freely give their time to help guide the future of our nation.

There are many counseling opportunities to be found at camp this year. The Church of the Brethren camp in August is seeking people who are willing to give of their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of young people. If you would like to help out in July, Cascade Camp Cedarbrook also has counseling slots to be filled.

If you would like more information about becoming a counselor please contact the camp office.

Volunteers Needed:

Camp Koinonia has many exciting programs that we will be working on this spring. These projects

will only come to life through the help of a dedicated crew of volunteers. Here is a short list of the projects we will need help with this year: The swimming pool, the irrigation system, painting the bunks in the Retreat Center, cleaning up from from our danger tree project, and brushing out a good path at the pond.

These are just a few of the projects we will be working on. If you would like to help please contact the camp office.

Donations Needed

Camp Koinonia has many worthwhile projects underway and could use your help to see them through. If you would like to make a donation please send it to camp. All donations are tax deductible and will be put to good use furthering this outdoor ministry. Camp Koinonia is a set apart ministry that strives to be an example for the stewardship of God's creation.

December's Benediction

*Cold clear days,
colder indigo nights.
Snow to the top of the rails some years,
barely to the first on others.
December is abandonment.
What good can come from this
bitter cold?*



*Surely, December is
abandonment.*

*No, December is a
benediction
as one year passes
and another anxiously tries the door.*

*God saves the best for last.
In the midst of the cold,
the bitter cold, and long nights,
angels startle,
and thaw hearts grown cold,
glory to the heavens
and peace, yes, peace.
The Christ child comes to us
in December,
He too brings a promise
of peace,
one day peace will come.*

December is a benediction.