

SPC UPCOMING EVENTS:**Special Workday @SPC—Sat Nov 14th 9 a.m. (see note below)****Fall Board of Trustees Meeting—Sat Nov 21st 9:30 a.m. @ Camp****Winter Board of Trustees Meeting—Sat Feb 13th 9:30 a.m. @ Camp****2010 Family Camp—Friday July 23th-Sunday August 1st**

“Simpson Park Camp Happenings,” for October/November 2009 has arrived, with news and information from our SPC President & Chairman of the Board, events/news in and around Simpson Park Camp.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT— How grateful we are for God's power to change lives! That's what Simpson Park Camp is all about. Fresh programming ideas, new leadership skills, vesting recently purchased property with a new entrance, and more are underway. We are moving into the future with faith, with prayer, and with vision. I trust **you are** and **plan to be** involved in several areas as God leads you. We are trusting God to fulfill a vision given to many both years ago and a new vision He continues to birth in the leadership of SPC! Yours for a Spirit-filled Camp!

Mel Leach, President of SPC

INTERIM CAMP DIRECTOR REPORT—John Grenfell

Please Welcome Gretchen Deming

It is my joy and privilege to introduce to you our new Office Manager, Gretchen Deming. Gretchen and her family moved here from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Her husband is employed with GM and they have three lovely daughters, ages 17, 13 and 7. In a letter Gretchen wrote that accompanied her resume she said, "it was a tough decision to move our family, but we believe that God led us here." I share that with us because our Executive Committee believes Gretchen comes to us through the providence of God and she brings many gifts and experience which will facility the development of the ministry of Simpson Park Camp.

Gretchen has served in Administrative and Secretarial responsibilities for President, CEO and Board meetings. The owner of the company where Gretchen served as secretary to the CEO said in his recommendation, "On a personal basis, I can advise that Gretchen is a dedicated Christian woman and mother whose everyday business and personal values are consistent with her faith." Her pastor from her church in Pennsylvania spoke with great appreciation for her ministry in that local church.

It is my hope and prayer that all of us volunteers, who truly believe that God is leading Simpson Park Camp to an extension of ministry and service to the cause of Jesus Christ, will give Gretchen the best of our cooperation. We face a great opportunity to help believers in Jesus Christ to reach new heights and depths of genuine Christian discipleship. Too many Christians have been content to be a member of the Church, when Jesus gave each of us an invitation to an exciting journey to follow Him where He would lead us. Members of Simpson Park Camp it is time to get excited, generate new enthusiasm for what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE—As presented at the Family Camp this summer we have a plan for the future of Simpson Park Camp and during this past year one of the major hurdles was overcome with the approval of the site plan by Bruce Township. The next hurdle is to get the plan vested and you will note in a later part of the Happenings—that has happened, but we are far from being done. Our challenge is to fulfill the SPC Vision—“To see a year-round Bible-based ministry, delivering the message of salvation and God’s transforming power; equipping each believer for Christian service”. The fulfillment of this vision is a two pronged approach—Programming & Facilities with each being dependent upon the other. We need to identify and create programs/activities that have at their center a Bible-based ministry and have the facilities that will allow those messages to be given. The real challenge for us to use the foundation of the Family Camp, to build relationships that in turn will help us to expand the use of these facilities that God has given to us. We have discussed many programming concepts and have seen success with “Summer Games” over the past several years and via the relationships we have been able to maintain the rental groups. Often we feel limited because of the age and rustic nature of our facilities, the state/county/township regulations & licensing requirements and the same financial woes that we all have. The initial goal is to have Simpson Park Camp Programs going throughout the six months the grounds are operational with a focus on all ages and backgrounds using these facilities for the Salvation and Proclamation of Christ and His love (SPC). The big question is “how” and the initial thought was to hire paid staff to enhance and expand the SPC initiatives—that is not the answer we have received from a financial perspective (at this time) and so the evaluation and planning process continues both for staffing and facilities. A plan for both areas is being presented at the Fall Board meeting and this will help us get to the next step—we continued to be encouraged by the volunteerism which has seen us through and will continue to see us through the struggles as we walk by faith.

These are major undertakings that we have struggled with in the past, continue to struggle with today and it will continue into the future. Your Board of Trustees, Officers and the Interim Management Team has established an organization via committees that has been functioning for about a year with the goal to share the load of meeting this challenge, operating within the revenues that are provided and upgrading the facilities to meet the expectations of today’s society—the key to all of this is making sure we are seeking God’s direction each step of the way and the vehicle that God will use to accomplish this is EACH OF US.

FINANCIAL UPDATE—Our current operations budget which is a “Breakeven” Budget covers our part-time personnel with lots of volunteers and for that budget we needed \$50,000 in pledges and gifts at family camp of \$23,000. The pledges were just a little short of the breakeven goal, but we received almost \$25,000 in giving at family camp. The Board and Management team continues to monitor the expenses, seek rental groups and are working to the goal of ending the year in the black for the Operations portion of the camp. As of the end of October with only two months remaining it appears to be touch and go to end the year in the black, so paying pledges early or an extra gift to Simpson Park Camp is greatly appreciated. Our Financial Secretary always looks forward to hearing from you—so just mail your pledges and gifts to Daryl-Lynn Essig 14331 Four Lakes Drive Sterling Heights, MI 48313-2128.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS—Based on the SPC vision and plan the Maintenance Committee has been more appropriate named the Buildings & Grounds Committee with Michael Damm still leading the group as they focus on our facilities. Michael shared the following:

Hello, from the newly named Building & Grounds Committee. We have been busily working on a number of fronts. First of all, we have officially vested out site plan. Permits were pulled and work began in mid October on the new exit portion of the road around the soccer fields and the parking area along Campground road. This phase is now complete. It was decided to do this project first because it enabled us to vest the plan with the least amount of expense and in the shortest amount of time so that we met the vesting deadline. We are now working on the plans for the upcoming projects. We have the drawings complete for the pavillion. We will be doing the excavation work for that yet this fall so that the sand we need to bring in has all winter to settle. We will put the project out for bids on March 1st and begin construction in early April. If all goes as planned, it will be completed well before camp.

We are also developing the plan for the greenbelt that is required along Gates and Campground roads. We will inform you of opportunities to contribute toward this project in time and treasure in the near future. We think we may be able to do a good deal of this with volunteers this spring.

We traded off some used equipment and upgraded our old finish mower to a wider rear discharge mulching mower. I am told it is working quite well. This will hopefully make fall and spring cleanups much easier and put much needed nutrients back into the ground for the trees. Thanks to the high winds we had recently, almost all the leaves are now down. That said, we are having **a work day on Saturday, November 14th to blow leaves off roofs and away from buildings so they can be mulched. We also need to put away picnic tables and garbage barrels and such. If anyone is available Saturday, we would appreciate your help. (and if anyone can bring along a leaf blower it would be great.)**

With the departure of Ken and Janet, we will be relying more heavily on volunteers. We have met with a gentleman from the area who is willing to work at the camp as needed to take care of some of the regular maintenance items such as mulching leaves or mowing grass, but if anyone within our constituency would like to volunteer some time to do some of these things as well, it would truly be a blessing. Maintaining a campground this size and with buildings such as ours is no small task. I encourage you all to consider this and give accordingly in both time and treasure. We continue to squeak by on a shoestring budget, but that can't go on forever. Please contact me via email at m.r.damm@tds.net if you are wiling and able to help in any way and I am sure we will be able to come up with something for you to help with.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT—Since Campmeeting the Future Development Committee has been working hand in hand with the Building & Grounds Committee to ensure the steps necessary to complete the vesting process for the campgrounds and new site plan were completed by November 20th, 2009. This due date to pull permits, 180 days from township approval of our site plan is a requirement of Bruce Township. As noted in the Building & Grounds Report, we are pleased to report that the first permits have been pulled in order to start work on a new entrance on the north end of our property off of Campground Road. We look

forward to much more cooperation in the years ahead to fulfill the mission & vision of Simpson Park Camp.

MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATING COMMITTEE - SIMPSON PARK NEEDS YOU!!! NOT AT CAMP? FORGOT TO TURN IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP? There's still time!! A change in the constitution was passed at the Association Meeting to allow membership applications to be received up to September 30. **REMEMBER THIS FROM THE LAST HAPPENINGS**—as a result of this change we received 28 membership applications after Family Camp; Praise the Lord!!!

At the Fall Board meeting, the nominating committee will be presenting the ballot for the SPC Officers and we know at least one new officer will be elected, since our Secretary Mary Brown is moving off of the Board to continue service in other areas of the ministry. We have appreciated her many years of service on the Board of Trustees and the last several years as the Secretary.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE—The Outreach Committee met in October to review the Mission Scholarship Requests. The Committee finalized their recommendations to present at the November Board of Trustees Meeting regarding the scholarship awards for 2009, and formulated further policies regarding on-going eligibility for the Mission Scholarship.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE— Our Historical Committee continues to be active in the community, as Bruce Patterson our Chairperson shares:

At the request of the Romeo Historical Society I portrayed James Starkweather at their cemetery walk on October third. This was an interesting event as several people acted as they were the departed. This was done as we stood at the grave site. This forced me to do some research into this family. As you might expect, I tried to plug the Camp as much as I could. The weather was bad and this kept the attendance down. Some of my ancestors lived in the area at the same time as the Starkweather's and probably knew them, which was of great interest to me.

MARKETING UPDATE—from Rose Watson

Since November is typically a month that we reflect on our blessings, we can only begin to enumerate the ways God has shown His favor on Simpson Park Camp. I would ask that each of us over the next 25 days reflect on our thankfulness by praying for the many aspects of our camp. Here is a suggestion for each day:

1. The Tabernacle, where many have experienced a sacred encounter with Jesus Christ, is undergoing restorative work in honor of its 100th anniversary next summer.(Please pray for people who will attend services to sense the Holy Spirit's presence working in their lives. If you have a personal story of one of those encounters, please write it and send it to our Historical Committee in care of the camp office. We'd love to have it in your handwriting, if possible!)
2. The speakers and musicians that will grace the platform--that they will be in one accord as they plan each message and song. (Please pray for our own Mike Schlusler and Greg Austin as they prepare for the 'in-house' Family Camp music program.)

3. The Buildings and Grounds (Maintenance) people have been busily tending to many aspects of keeping the grounds safe, picturesque, and compliant with codes that change continually. (Pray for Mike Damm and his crew of volunteers as they work on projects to improve our facilities for all to enjoy!)
4. The Bruce Township Board who gave approval for site plans! (Pray for Dwight Gibson and the Future Development Team as they research capital fundraising efforts.)
5. That the Pavilion is to become a reality that has been needed to shelter the Youth for their meetings. (Please pray for Mike Sawicki and the Youth Team as they endeavor to obtain speakers who will focus on topics that will challenge our teens to live for Christ in this new century!)
6. Thank you God for the 4 buildings which house our Nursery, Tiny Tots, Kiddie Korner, and Hastings House. (Please pray for Dale and Joan Dewing as they meet with their staff to plan another exciting year for the children to experience God on their level!!)
7. Thank you Heavenly Father for our next generation of Young Adults who have managed to stay in tents down by the pond. (Please pray for Ryan & Katie French as they lead their group to the foot of the Cross of Christ. They will soon need more substantial housing as more couples begin their families!!)
8. Thank you God for people who have been willing to serve in capacities of nominating & membership. (Please pray for Daryl-Lynn Essig who is the financial secy, and Dennis Hickmott, treasurer, to see that these responsibilities take place!)
9. Thankfulness for past sacrificial giving for camp needs, especially those who have remembered SPC in their wills. (Please pray for John Grenfell, chairperson of the Finance Committee and Interim Camp director.)
10. The blessing of families who have kept attending and supporting SPC through the years, and passing on their cabins to others who would enjoy camp meeting. (Please pray for people named in the camp membership book, for others to become members, and for new people to hear about our wonderful camp!)
11. For the camp's heritage and the families who have donated cabins for camp use. (Please pray for Bruce Patterson and the Historical Committee as they plan for the 150th anniversary. Please pray for Mary Fox as she gathers her nursing staff for Family Camp.)
12. We are blessed to have a great spirit of fun, fellowship, and freedom to praise and worship during our week of Family Camp. (Please pray for Cal Long, who oversees the many committees, such as the Housing Team(Jay & Denise Peplinski),Bookstore & Concessions Team (Gibson family), Food Service Team (Terry, our head cook), and the Worship Team (Lisa Bondarenko), and many volunteers besides!!)

13. Praise God for the Outreach ministries as several retreats are held here other than Family Camp. (Please pray for Don Gotham who heads this up; also Vicky Metters, Summer Games, and that God would richly influence those who come upon our grounds for these activities!)
14. Thank the Lord for our Board of Trustees: Mike Austin, Dennis Hickmott, Don Brundage, Katie French, Calvin Long, Don Gotham, Michael Sawicki, Amy Watson, Dwight Gibson, John Grenfell, Mel Leach, Michael Damm, Diane Orchard, Tim Christner, Jim Fox, Tim Throne, Bill Wager, and Rose Watson. (Please pray that God will inspire us, transform our attitudes, bring us to consensus in a bond of love as we discuss and vote on issues.)
15. Thanking God for our Interim Management Team who have served voluntarily for many months. (Please pray for guidance in hiring of new staff to help us continue in the tradition of reaching our community for Christ!)
16. Thank you, God, for the years served by our past presidents, and Interim Director, Mark Orchard. (We pray for Mel Leach and Dwight Gibson as our President and VP for your anointing on their lives to lead SPC in the next few years!!)
17. Thank you for giving us favor with more of our neighboring families. (Please pray that people who attended years ago, will feel led to return to the camp, and that the towns people will desire to become part of our activities in the tradition of Holiness!)
18. Thank you to Ken and Janet DeLine, a true blessing these past couple years in keeping the camp office and grounds working for the betterment of the camp as a whole! (Please pray for new help to replace these good people!)
19. Thanking you, God, for the buildings that house our people: Hotel, Lobb Lodge, and the Family Unit. (Please pray that we will have the ideas, funds, and volunteer help to repair & refurbish these to make our lodging areas more attractable)
20. God Bless our Ladies' Tea, an important fundraiser which helps promote the camp and encourages our Ladies to enjoy this special event with their interests in mind! (Please pray for Diane Orchard and myself as we strive to plan next summer's event on the first Saturday of camp.)
21. Thank you to people who have faithfully set aside the week of Family Camp as a first priority to attend each year! (Please give us creative ideas, Lord, to advertise and market the camp according to your Will and Way!)
22. What a blessing to have volunteers come early to camp every year to plant flowers, paint buildings, spruce up their cottages, clean up the grounds of branches to make it look more inviting to first timers!! (Please pray for a host of volunteers to continue these good works!!)
23. Thank you God for the AYSO, which adds another way to promote our camp's use of the soccer field. (Please send us other groups who could use our camp for a rental facility!)

24. For the blessings of scholarship money providing members an opportunity to participate in a mission trip! (Please pray that many will receive a call to the Mission Field from the influence of SPC on their lives.)

25. For those who have yet to experience you, God, in a beautiful setting such as we have here at Simpson Park Camp! (Please pray for one new person/family/group that you can speak to about Family Camp.)

SPC Interim Mgt Team—Diane Orchard 248-628-2738; Don Brundage 586-677-6417 Mel Leach 586-293-4194
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