

“The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our
land will yield its harvest.”

Psalm 85:12 (NIV)



A note from the President.....

As the fall and its events descend upon us, we are reminded how important it is to "redeem the time" or "make the most of every opportunity" (Ephesians 5:16). It is crucial for Simpson Park Camp to do exactly that with everything they put their hand to do. Opportunities to serve people near and far, both are realized as we hold retreats, camps, rallies, and events, or can be lost as we fail to share about the wonderful setting, availability, and fail to challenge people to take advantage of this beautiful setting to grow in faith.

May Jesus Christ and His Leadership in both our lives and in our camp, compel us to always be about sharing His goodness and love. May Simpson Park Camp be right in the middle and a key way for that to happen!!

Have a great fall,
Mel Leach

*The 2012 Golf Outing, to be held Monday, June 4, 2012,
has a new format. Get a packet, raise some money for SPC and
play as much (or as little) golf as you want.
It promises to be a blast. So come and "have a ball!"*



P.S. This past year we raised over \$10,000 for the camp!

A note from your Camp Director.....

Memories for Mission

At Family Camp 2010, we celebrated the Tabernacle being one hundred years in ministry. We are on the brink of celebrating Simpson Park Camp being 150 years in ministry for the cause of Jesus Christ. Many of us have wonderful memories of days and experiences on the beautiful grounds of Simpson Park Camp. Your Camp Director first came on these grounds over 70 years ago and the memories of my days at this camp is what stimulates my involvement as your Camp Director.

In the summer of 1949 I had just graduated from the Music Department of Cass Technical High School. It was my good fortune to have sung in a quartet for almost three years and in the closing days of my senior year, our quartet sung at the Veterans Hospital in Dearborn Michigan. We were on stage with a night club singer who had just returned from New York City. She offered to help our quartet make connections in the entertainment world. My life was confronted with a critical decision: do I follow my call to ministry and disrupt the opportunity presented to our quartet? My decision would have a major influence on the other members of the quartet. It was at Family Camp in 1949 on the hallowed grounds of Simpson Park Camp that I sealed my decision to seek first the plan of God for my life. I could enlarge upon the memories of experiences at Simpson Park Camp but what is most important is using our memories to motivate us to fresh and exciting plans for fulfilling God's vision for Simpson Park Camp.

May I suggest that all of us connected with Simpson Park Camp need to utilize those memories to build upon the rich heritage of our camp? Some of the best days for Simpson Park Camp stand before us if we are willing to allow God's Spirit to challenge us, to move us to dream, to commit and to give of ourselves and the resources God has granted to us. We need to nurture the Body of Christ to become a living organism, not just institutional structures of denominational loyalty. We need to continue to make improvements to our buildings, especially our Tabernacle, and to our camp. We need to utilize the memories of God ordained ministries that transformed lives, directed countless individuals into many different areas of ministries and service to motivate us anew. God is seeking to shape Simpson Park Camp into a 21st Century instrument of service equipping believers for Christian service. Our nation and world need such a ministry.

Your Camp Director,

John Grenfell, Jr



2011 Family Camp Summary

I would like to start off by remembering our families in New York. Those families have been hit hard by rains and flooding. Please keep them and their families in your prayers daily. Time flies by and another Family Camp has come and gone. Things went very well this year, and hopefully each of you was able to catch up with old friends and make new relationships too. I want to thank all the volunteers that come together to make this week possible. I would mention names, but I know I would forget some. The list is so long of those you see serving, and those that serve behind the scenes that know one ever knows about or sees. The kitchen staff did a spectacular job this year. We heard a lot of good feedback on the food. The other problems we faced were running out of food. Our numbers increased at each meal, sometimes so much that we would run close on food if not out of it. This is a good problem that I see. This means that people our staying on campus and coming up from their cabins to eat. This is valuable community time, and time that we form the relationships we cherish year after year. The campus looked amazing this year. The Building and Grounds committee and the servant hood of volunteers helped open up the beauty within the campus, with the removal of a few trees and replanting grass. I hope as we move forward with progress on the grounds, we can move in the same thoughtful and planned manner. As we move into the fall, please keep Simpson Park Camp in your prayers. If anyone has any time or has desire for a mission work at Camp, please feel free to contact Gretchen at the office to set a day or a weekend retreat up.

God Bless,
Tim Christner, Family Camp Chair

Youth Camp From: Michael T. Sawicki

SPC Youth Camp had a great camp as they “walked through the Bible” with about 130 youth (numbers were up a bit from last year!). We continue to pray for our youth and their efforts to read the Bible every morning. Thank you to our very own Johnny Aho, who really connected and bonded with the youth as he taught them about, and equipped them for “spiritual warfare”. As always, the week wrapped up with a really terrific day at Gordy Games! Thanks to all who make this possible.

Children’s Program

A great time of fun and ministry was had by all during the Children’s Program this year, with about 175 children registered. You may have noticed the t-shirts during their program showing the “Oaks of Righteousness” displaying the splendor of Christ.

Doug and Darla Kearce and the Z crew puppets brought their traveling radio station set to Hasting’s House to tell children the Good News of the Gospel. We hope that they learned how to face the battles of today – heartaches at home, trouble at school, pressure from peers by “being strong in the Lord and the power of his might”.

Joan and Dale Dewing announced their “retirement” as the Deans of the Children’s Program. We want to thank Joan and Dale for their many years of service, 10 as the Deans/Directors of the Children’s Program, and they helped out for 8 years before that. They feel that the Children’s Program is an incredibly vital part of Simpson Park Camp and they feel blessed to have been able to raise their children here.

One of the highlights of these past 10 years is witnessing Dan Cutchen’s ministry and love for our children. His ministry encourages the children to love Jesus and have fun at the same time. Programming and attendance has grown over the years, as well. When the Dewings first started, there were no afternoon activities and they thought it was important to incorporate that family time. We thank you, Joan and Dale, for sharing your gifts of leadership and service with us!



Keep your eyes open for information on our new Deans of the Children’s Program in the next issue of the Happenings!

Young Adult Program Recap **From: Katie French**

The Young Adult program is still going strong at Family Camp. While our numbers of campers have remained fairly steady at around 40 at any given time and about 90 throughout the week, we had a huge influx of new members to the program this year. We were excited to get to know new people and build those relationships. We enjoyed messages under the tutelage of Pastor Bob Bryant from Stone Ridge Church, our Simpson Park Camp neighbor. We built a wheelchair ramp for a paralyzed teen in Hamtramck. We had workshops, games and our annual ladder gold tournament. Throughout the year we will continue to communicate with each other via Face book and continue to strengthen those bonds we created at camp.

Our annual youth/ young adult retreat is scheduled for October 7-9. Anyone from 7th grade to 30 welcome. The registration deadline is October 1st. The cost is \$40. Register at www.simpsonparkyouth.com. Questions- Contact Kattie DeBow at Kattie.DeBow@gmail.com.

Celebrating the 4th Annual Ladies' Tea during Family Camp 2011





**IN PREPARATION FOR
 OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2015**

Ladies, (and Gentlemen!), please send us your favorite family recipes. Tell us why they are so special and/or the source of the recipe. We are looking for recipes from all generations, even a copy of it in the originator's handwriting. We plan to compile them into a cookbook as a fundraiser for the 150th celebration. If we receive duplicates, we will publish the name of each person submitting it. If there are different versions or ingredients, we will print those recipes separately. Thank you.

Buildings & Grounds/Food Service
From: Don Brundage

In the next few months, as we begin to plan for the 2012 camp season, we will be putting our maintenance plan together. Over the past few years great strides have been made in raising the standard of our facilities and we will continue the course.

While we were raising the standard of our facilities, the standard of our food service was on the decline. At the end of the 2010 camp season we determined that we had to do an about face. We wanted the dining experience to once again be one of great food and great fellowship. We haven't finalized exact numbers, but initial estimates indicate that meals served nearly doubled (excluding youth meals). There were times we ran out of food and had to make substitutions because more people showed up than expected. Our apologies if this happened to you. It was great to see folks linger after a meal and just visit. We were hopeful that the changes we were making would bring folks back to the dining hall for meals. Our hopes were far exceeded, even to the point of having to provide additional seating. What a great problem to have.

Patty and Nancy, our cooks, and their staff not only prepared excellent meals, but demonstrated their love for the Lord in the way they served us. They were exhausted by the end of family camp and entertained the thought of not coming back in 2012, but when we met with them the end of August they indicated they would be back. We were excited to hear that. We spent time talking about how to continue raising our food service standard and began to lay out our plans for the 2012 camp season. We would appreciate hearing from you.



By the way, for those that don't know, Don Brundage took the Servsafe Food Safety Certification course and became SPC's Certified Professional Food Manager, helping to initiate the positive changes we've seen in our Food Service. Thank you, Don!

We are very grateful to Daryl-Lynn Essig, who after 23 years, has decided that it was time to provide someone else with the opportunity to be the Financial Secretary for the Camp. She stepped down from this position at the end of Family Camp this summer. We thank her for many years of dedicated service. In the meantime, please send all your donations directly to the Simpson Park Camp Office, 70199 Campground Road, Romeo, MI 48065. Thank you!



✓ 2012 Family Camp Dates:

✓ July 27- Aug 5, 2012

Many of you may not be familiar with our Summer Games Program. This is the kind of enlarged ministry that we are seeking to expand as part of fulfilling our Vision Statement.

Each year Summer Games has a goal(s). Each year the huddle leaders and campers tell us if we reached them and the goals.

“Summer Games is fun because all the time there is smiles all around, all is clean, peaceful and caring people are there to.” 4th grader

“A special person to me at camp was (name withheld) because he showed me that messed up people can turn their lives around be used by God.” 8th grader

“Summer Games is a sort of haven to me, because every (one) builds each other up, rather than putting people down.” 7th grader

“Summer Games one of the best experiences, because of how much I have grown closer to Christ through how we run the program.” 11th grade huddle leader

“Summer Games is my safe place, because outside this camp life is rough. I feel like this is my way to escape the drama and hate, and turn it into love and compassion. It’s also my way to be closer to Jesus.” 9th grader

“Summer Games was amazing, because there were people who loved me.” 6th grader

“Summer Games is outstanding, because you always come out changed and feel God throughout the week.” 12th grade huddle leader

“And I love how they talk about how God loves us...” 5th grader

“Summer Games is God-inspired, because it is a safe haven from the darkness in this world where God’s love can affect and take over hearts like few other places.” College huddle leader

“Summer Games is a special place, because ...you can be yourself without worrying...” 9th grader

“Simpson Park Camp was inspiring, because it reminds me how I just need to believe as a child does—stress less.” College huddle leader

We reached the goal(s) God had...and we are thankful for the acreage called Simpson Park Camp.

Jan Henderson, Vicky Metters
2011 Summer Games Deans

SIMPSON PARK CAMP HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Vesta Siders sent me an obituary in May 2011, of Rev. Kenneth L. Harris, age 95, who passed away September 28, 2010. I misplaced this until after Family Camp and I am very sorry for not having him as a part of our Memorial Service. Rev. Harris attended SPC for a number of years.

During Family Camp, Heritage House received a gift from a member of our SPC family, namely, a chamber pot that was purchased at a sale of things from the old, Star, hotel. It now resides in the middle bedroom, upstairs. Thanks so much for contributing to our heritage.

I attended several Praise and Prayer meetings in the Chapel. A couple of times Sally Andrews played the old pump organ. The old hymns, played on that organ, almost brought tears to my eyes. Many of you know how growing older can effect the way we view things. Our Chapel is such a great part of our Camp.

Thanks to all who made the 2011 Family Camp a memorable one.

For the Historical Committee,
Bruce Patterson

Marketing Reminder:

As we work towards bringing our Vision statement to life, we wanted to offer some tools to our members to share their love of Simpson Park Camp. These postcards were presented at Family Camp and are available in the office to share with your church youth group, small group, home school organization, Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop or anyone else who you think may reap the benefits of visiting our spiritual grounds. The message we are conveying is that we are far away....from distractions, that is, while being right here, close by. When you present this card to someone and they book a rental, they will receive an additional discount. If they tell us that you referred them, you will also receive a special gift. Remember, the more rentals we reserve, the more people we are reaching for Christ. In addition, as rentals increase, the facilities for Family Camp improve. Call the office today and get a few postcards to share!

The image shows three promotional items for Simpson Park Camp:

- Top Left:** A postcard with the Simpson Park Camp logo and text: "NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS FOR 2012-2013". It includes contact information for the Simpson Park Camp Meeting Association: 30891 Comptonal Road, Ramer, Michigan 49803, www.simpsonparkcamp.org. It also features the "Great Lakes State of Michigan" logo.
- Top Right:** A red postcard with the text: "PLAN YOUR ORGANIZATION'S RETREATS & EVENTS far away. RIGHT HERE." It features a photo of a family walking in a wooded area.
- Bottom:** A map of the camp grounds showing various buildings and facilities. Below the map is a flyer with the headline "DIDN'T JUST GETTING UP NORTH USED TO BE HALF THE FUN?" and text describing the camp's amenities and services.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

In the event that you forgot to renew your membership, a copy of our Membership Application follows. Deadline is September 30, 2011:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Simpson Park Camp Meeting Association
 For the year 2011-2012

I wish to become or continue as a member of Simpson Park Camp Meeting Association. I am in complete sympathy and accord with the Purposes and Statement of Belief of the Association. I understand that, as a member of the Association, I will be expected to support the Association's programs with my prayers, my time, my talents, my tithe and my gifts.

I will pray for the Camp on a regular basis, and I will use my talents to help grow the ministry in every way I am able. I can be counted on to financially support SPCMA programs as the Lord enables me, and I will personally promote the Camp by word and deed.

I understand that this application, along with the application fee of \$15.00 (individual) or \$25.00 (married couple), must be received by September 30, 2011 to be eligible for membership and voting privileges for the following calendar year. It is further understood that this application will be approved or denied at the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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All members must agree with Simpson Park Camp Meeting Association Purpose and Statement of Belief as contained in the Constitution.

Please print legibly

Today's Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Home church _____ City/State _____

NEW APPLICANTS ONLY:

I have sought the recommendation of a current member of the Association:

Current member name & signature _____

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Continued...

Simpson Park is qualified to receive gifts as a 501 © 3 not for profit organization.

_____ Simpson Park Camp is included in my will or estate plan.

_____I have not yet included Simpson Park Camp in my estate plan, but would like to talk to your confidential advisor about various options. Please have someone call me at _____.

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Keeping informed.....

For your information.....

Approved Board of Trustee Meeting minutes are available to anyone who may want them. Please contact the office with your request, and they will be sent.

UPCOMING SPC EVENTS AND DATES

September 11 - Grace Lutheran Fellowship – Tabernacle Worship Service and Pavilion picnic

October 7 – 8 – Asbury United Methodist Youth Group Work Project

October 7 – 9 – SPC Youth/Young Adult Fall Retreat

October 21 – 23 – St. Malachy Youth Retreat

November 12 – Fall Board of Trustees Meeting

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Class of 2011

Tim Christner
Michael Damm
Dwight Gibson
John Grenfell
Melvin Leach
Diane Orchard

Class of 2012

Mike Austin
Jim Fox
Dennis Hickmott
Tim Throne
Bill Wager
Rose Watson

Class of 2013

Don Brundage
Katie French
Greg Martin
Ruth Ann Newberry
Bruce Patterson
Michael T. Sawicki