

Summer Is Right Around the Corner!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE UPCOMING SPC EVENTS

SPC Work Day – Saturday, June 5th, 9:00 – 3:30

8th Annual Golf Outing – Monday, June 7th

FWB Michigan Junior Camp at SPC - Sunday, June 20th – Friday, June 25th

2010 Summer Games – Sunday, July 11th – Saturday, July 17th

2010 Family Camp—Friday, July 23rd – Sunday, August 1st

“Simpson Park Camp Happenings,” for May/June 2010 has arrived, with news and information from our SPC President & Chairman of the Board, along with events/news in and around Simpson Park Camp.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

I've been preaching through the most wonderful Old Testament book of Exodus. We are all the way to where the Children of Israel are about to cross the Red Sea. They are hemmed in--before them, the Sea, behind them the Egyptian army!! God tells them: 1) Don't be afraid, 2) Stand firm, and 3) See the deliverance the Lord will bring.

I'm feeling a lot like that these days in regard to Simpson Park Camp. God is about to do great things--our task: Don't fear, Stand firm, and See what God will do. Now God uses us, resources He's given, time, prayer, and commitment in many ways, but we are to remember, "**The Battle Is The Lords**"!

I tell you these are exciting days and you no doubt will read and hear of many wonderful things happening and that are about to happen at SPC! Be a part of what God is doing. The Lord Jesus Christ is fighting to bring a people to Himself and we are a part of that.

Expectantly,
Mel Leach--President

SPC Golf Marathon

It's just around the corner..... When a dozen brave golfers will attempt to hit the little white ball and land on 100 greens and into 100 or so cups. Have you pledged yet? Will you pray for the outing? It is a great fundraiser for SPC as well. Monday, June 7th is the day!! So.....



Please Join Us

Simpson Park Camp will be hosting their 8th annual Golf Marathon on Monday, June 7, 2010 at Burning Tree Golf and Country Club in Macomb Township. Check in starts at 7:00am – dinner is scheduled for 5:00pm. Golfers – get out your clubs and set your sights on sponsors! Sponsors – get ready to support your favorite golfer! What a wonderful time we will have!

CAMP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE – John Grenfell

It is difficult to take a pastor out of the pulpit and he not take an opportunity to preach--sorry about that! If Family Camp is to have the impact and influence God desires and we expect it to have, we must have a commitment of more Volunteers.

WORK DAY, JUNE 5, 2009 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. It is our hope to have enough Volunteers to paint and make more attractive the rooms and the bathrooms of Lobb Lodge and The Family Unit. Our facilities being **more attractive and comfortable are important to the promotion and future of our Camp.** SO PLEASE plan on joining members from our Building and Grounds Committee in enabling the painting of these two units.

If you are planning to volunteer to work on June 5, would you please call the Camp Office. We want to be sure that we will have enough workers to get accomplished what we are planning. We certainly would like to get one of these units completed on this day. This would provide improved facilities for other retreats, seminars, etc. and help the Camp secure additional income to advance our vision of being a center for the nurturing of disciples of Jesus Christ.



Calling all volunteers!



**VISITORS TO SIMPSON PARK CAMP
BY BRUCE PATTERSON**

On a cold April 17th of this year, I had the pleasure of welcoming several descendants of our first President, Rev. William G. Nixon DD, to SPC. They had become curious as to whether SPC still existed, as they had a family album with pictures of the Camp. A Google search revealed we do indeed exist. Jeannie Morris, wife of Christopher Morris, great grandson of Rev. W.G. Nixon, contacted the Camp and arranged for a visit and tour of the Camp. Two of the group was granddaughters of our first president. All will be named in the picture below. Our guests were pleased with the place of honor given Rev. Nixon. They took several pictures, and seemed to enjoy their visit. I believe they will respond to my invitation to visit us at family Camp. After our tour, my guests treated me to a picnic lunch.

With the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Nixon Tabernacle happening this year we are planning something special, which hopefully, will include a visit from the above guests.



Left side – front to back

Matthew Morris - gg grandson
Jeannette Nixon Morris - granddaughter
Emily Morris - gg granddaughter
Christopher Morris – great grandson

Right side – front to back

Joan Legge – granddaughter
Jeannie Morris – Wife of Christopher

FINANCIAL UPDATE—from Dennis Hickmott

For 2010 the Board adopted a breakeven operations budget and with that we once again faced the reality that we are going to have to continue with as much volunteer help as we can get, since there is no room at this time to add additional paid staff. We have completed Jan-April 2010 and as expected our expenses have been more than our income, but to a lesser extent than in years past.

One of the reasons for this improvement was due to George Bush of the Buildings & Ground Committee working with our insurance company and basically reducing the premium cost in half—Praise the Lord. With the investment in the new mower we were able to handle the fall/spring cleanup of the grounds without having to hire an outside company which has been the case for the last couple of years. So from an operations standpoint we are doing OK. We believe God has much more He wants us to be doing and we need to continue to pray that we can fulfill His mission at this camp. . There are a few buildings & grounds projects that have been authorized in 2010 which will help to keep the grounds looking good and buildings in shape.

Regarding the development funds that are on hand, they will be used up with the pavilion and replacing the Starkweather barn and other outbuildings roofs. The Development Committee will present to the May Board meeting some major projects to help move our camp in the direction of meeting our vision and mission. In order to fund those projects we will need significant giving and other sources of funds—we look forward to their ideas and sharing them with you as we dream together.

We continue to appreciate the wonderful giving of time, talent and finances that our members and others have done. 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.

BOARD UPDATE—

Our spring Board meeting held Saturday, May 9, was a meeting with many updates and reports along with continued visioning, planning, and praying. The new pavilion was inspected (and is ready for cement to be poured when the funds permit), the barn is being reroofed, and other maintenance items are on the books to be done.

It was exciting to again revisit our Wesleyan heritage and to remember why the camp came into existence in the first place. We do exist to bring people to faith, grow people in faith, in a relaxed camp setting. To that end we pray, give, volunteer, and meet.

We were reminded that it is the 100th year anniversary of the Nixon Tabernacle and there will be a special emphasis of praise to God for that sacred place. (There are some repairs to be made to the tabernacle as well.)

Soon we will be celebrating 150 years continuing camp meeting at SPC! Wow! What a heritage we have--What a responsibility! These are just a few of the highlights. It was a good board meeting.

May Jesus Christ continue to be praised in all we do.
For the Board,
Mel Leach, President

FAMILY CAMP UPDATE – MISSIONARY DAY – from Mel Leach

It Will Be An Exciting Missionary Day At Camp!!

Missionary Day, Thursday, July 29, will be filled with how our mighty God has been at work. Jason and Emily Adkins, at work in Africa will be with us in the morning service to share about their exciting work. Both Jason and Emily have been on our grounds many times.

The afternoon service will be led by our own Don Gotham who was leading a Volunteers In Mission Missions Team in Haiti when the February earthquake struck. He and his team will help us understand how God provided for them during this horrific time.

This wonderful day will close with Brent and Beth Cravens from the Mission Society sharing about their work in Kazakhstan, and how God has led and is leading them by His Grace.

It will be an exciting day of lifting God's provision for salvation and wholeness through ministry. We will continue to lift God's call for each one to be fully in ministry wherever God leads. And that includes each one of us.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT – Dwight Gibson

SPC's Roving Reporter..... When Dwight came in for the spring Board meeting, he was quite busy. He managed to meet with reporters from 3 different newspapers to talk about the Starkweather barn renovations. Some of those articles are available on line. Please check them out at:

Detroit News Online – www.detnews.com or www.meizlish.com

Visit the archive for Tuesday, May 11th

“Rebuilding Macomb County History”

Advisor & Source Newspapers - www.sourcenewspapers.com

Printed on-line, Friday, May 14th

On the opening page

“SPC Works on Renovations for Historic Structures”



Smile!

. You're on candid camera!

Ok, you won't be on candid camera, but you will be in the Simpson Park Pictorial Directory! Just a reminder please be prepared to have your picture taken at this year's Camp for a directory.



FAMILY CAMP MUSIC MINISTRY – Homegrown talent at Family Camp this summer!

We have received some offers of musical talent, but we **NEED MORE** as we start to put together the various services. We are interested in instrumental as well as vocal talent so that we can share various types of music from traditional to contemporary. If you can share your gifts during just one service we can showcase as much of our talent as possible. So, if you sing or play an instrument, and are interested in sharing your gifts with us please contact Greg Austin at (517) 416-2140 or email @ piano88boy@yahoo.com or Mike Schlusler at (810) 664-9899 or email @ mschlusler@gmail.com.

MARKETING UPDATE—from Rose Watson

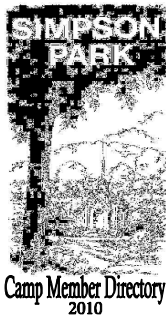
Rose represented SPC and the Historical Committee at the Macomb County Heritage Alliance Conference in April at the Mt. Clemens Public Library. This is always a wonderful public relations opportunity and another venue to showcase our updates and events. There is usually someone in the audience who has never even heard of SPC.....imagine that!

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PLEASE NOTE: There is a change to the Family Camp Reservation telephone number. Jay and Denise Peplinski will be taking reservations for lodging this year and their home phone number changed right after the brochure mailed. Their new home phone number is (989) 244-6040. You can also email them at peplinski1@charter.net with your information and preferences.

The Family Camp and Marketing Committees are looking for volunteers (perhaps a couple, or 2 singles) who would happily assist us at Family Camp as “Gate Greeters”, to pass out the Welcome Brochures during the first weekend of camp. As people drive through the main entrance by the athletic field, we want everyone to feel welcomed!! Whether they are long-time attendees or totally new to SPC, they will be handed this packet of info which will include a registration card. People will be asked to write down their camp location (be it a cabin number, hotel, Lobb Lodge, Family Unit number or RV/Tent campsite number, dorm name or YA site) and to drop it off in the offering plate or at the Welcome Center/Office building between the Tabernacle and the bookstore. It will also request home contact info such as I.C.E. phone numbers, home address and e-mail updates. So, if this sounds like something you could do to help out for a few hours, please call the office (586) 752-3202 to sign up. All you’ll need is your comfy lawn chair and your best smile



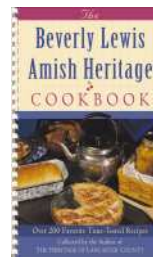
AT LONG LAST.....

Watch your mailboxes this week for the
 2010 Membership Directory!



Golf Cart Reservations – If you are in need of a golf cart for family camp, please call the office to discuss your needs. Thank you.

LADIES TEA RESERVATIONS –



3rd Annual Ladies Tea featuring author Beverly Lewis

Saturday, July 24, 2010 (first Saturday of Family Camp)

Hotel Dining Room from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Cost: \$15.00 (children ages 9 and older included)

Our theme this year is Recipes - ***“Taste and see that the Lord is good” Psalm 34:8***

The program this year will feature viewing a DVD of an interview of **BEVERLY LEWIS**, the NY Times best-selling author, followed by a tele-conference with Beverly. Her *Amish Heritage Cookbook*, which came out in 2004, will be highlighted for the heart-warming stories behind many of her family’s recipes.

In contrast, please also join us for a **Tastefully Simple** food preparation demonstration presented by Danyeale Watson, followed by a sampling of some of their delicious desserts.



Please clip out the form below to accompany your fees. In light of the price reduction, we encourage you to send your fees in at the time of your reservation. Please send to the Camp Office, making checks payable to Simpson Park Camp, designation “Ladies Tea”. Please contact Karen Wissman if you would like to serve as a hostess. Thank you.

<p><i>3rd Annual Ladies’ Tea</i></p> <p>Name(s) of person(s) attending _____</p> <p>Amount enclosed \$ _____</p> <p>Please check if these apply:</p> <p>_____ I would like to serve as a hostess, supplying the tableware settings for 8, including teacups and teapot, overlay, and a centerpiece (white damask table covering provided).</p> <p>I would like to be seated at the table hosted by _____</p>

IN PREPARATION FOR OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2015

Ladies, whether you are planning to attend or not, 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.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT

The task of maintaining and improving the camp is an overwhelming task. I am fortunate to have had a great team of men to assist in this. A great deal of thanks goes out those on committee for their commitment and hard work and contacts which have helped to save the camp countless thousands of dollars. We have accomplished a great deal in the past 3 months and there is much yet that needs to be done.

The pavilion has been erected. We are moving forward now on the wiring and water lines. The underground conduit has been installed and inspected. We will pour concrete as soon as funds are available. Once the concrete is done, we can grade and plant grass. It is our intent to get the topsoil needed for the grade from the projected roadway. We will contract an excavator to push the sod and black dirt into a pile and grade around the pavilion.

On April 24th we had a work day at the camp. It was in my opinion poorly attended, however we were able to accomplish a great deal. We hauled 7 or 8 large loads of leaves and branches to the brush pile, built access covers for the septic tanks which have all been checked and pumped where necessary, (note, there are 11 separate septic tanks on the property), and we cleaned around the camp office among other things.

Since that time, Jim Newberry and Larry Barr have been out and had a team of inmates out as well to help with cleaning the grounds. That was a very successful time and we hope to utilize them again. They were also able to put up the cables that will hold the tarps for the pavilion.

The work on the barn roof began on Monday the 3rd. There is minimal damage to the roof boards however some attention is needed on the eaves. This work is the first step in the long and challenging task of restoring these buildings to functionality. This work will expend the bulk of what has been given toward the Starkweather buildings, but will now enable us to refocus on the camp proper for a while with out fear of further deterioration of these buildings.

We are awaiting funding to become available so that we can begin work on the chapel roof which needs to be done as soon as possible and also for trimming trees which will need to be done this fall.

We will continue to forge forward as funding allows and continue to do so in the most economical way imaginable. I am very pleased at what we have been able to accomplish on limited funds. I believe this is what we need to do in order to bring this campground into the 21st century and have constituents who are willing to support it with their time and treasure. No one wants to give to a dead or dying cause. A run down facility gives that impression. As we improve and bring this camp up to par, it is my prayer that there will be many who will rise up along with it and we will see momentum grow. Only then will we be able to achieve the lofty goals we have outlined.

Thanks again to Larry Barr and especially Jim Newberry for their work around the camp the past months.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Damm B&G Chairman

AND LAST....BUT NOT LEAST.....THE PAVILION!



The Pavilion structure and electrical work is complete. Doesn't it look great? If you offered a pledge towards the pavilion and haven't sent it in yet, please do so. We need an additional **\$7,000** to complete the cement work so the pavilion is fully functional. We would encourage you to consider sending in a special gift towards this project if you haven't already, anticipating that it will be complete and ready for use by Family Camp this summer and many others in years to come.