

The *Focus* of Pocono Plateau Camp + Retreat Center

SPRING 2011

Experiencing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
through recreation, challenge, and reflection.



God is in Control

By Rev. Ron Schane, Director

A mother and son sit at the breakfast table. The mom is wearing a T-shirt with the words: BE NICE TO ME. I HAD A HARD DAY. Her son looks at the words and says, "How can you tell this early in the morning?"

Ours is a stress-filled society with changes, expectations, and responsibilities pressing in on all sides. Worry and stress are issues we all have to deal with, especially in light of recent world events. In an age of uncertainty, when violence and unrest dominate the headlines, how do we as Christians live out our faith without being burdened by anxiety and fear?

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus invites us to consider the birds of the air. There is no worry in their lives, no attempt to pile up goods for an unforeseen and unforeseeable future; and yet their lives go on. Aren't we of more value to God than the birds? If God gave us life, we can trust God for the things that are necessary to support life. God's antidote for worry is trust in Him.

This year's theme for summer camp is "No Matter What: A Love That Won't Let Go!" During the Bible studies campers will reflect and discuss the truth related to God's love through Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Daily topics include such truths as God loves us, God seeks us, and we are called to love one another. Working through the daily themes the campers will be assured that, no matter what happens to them, God is with them!

This theme is not only appropriate for the campers, but for all of us. It's Jesus' advice that we should handle the demands of each day as they come, without worrying about the unknown future and the things that may never happen. It assures us that our Lord will provide. We must plan intelligently and prayerfully for the future. Worrying about tomorrow can only hamper our efforts for today. If life's hassles get too big and you feel overwhelmed...stop...take a deep breath...and refocus on today and what God is doing!

Financial Prayers Answered

Dear Friends of the Plateau,

Last year, 2010, was a difficult financial year for the camp. However, we serve an amazing God! Our prayers were answered by the generosity of God's people. The response to the camp's crisis was overwhelming! As a result, the camp was able to pay all of its expenses last year. The total donations received in November and December was over \$69,000. Praise God!!!

Thank you to everyone who assisted the camp in its time of need! Every single dollar was greatly appreciated. The Plateau Family is extremely generous with their donations. Your support of the ministry of Pocono Plateau allows the camp to continue to provide life-changing opportunities to children, youth, and adults.

Together in Ministry,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron".

Ron Schane, Director

Change a Child's Life

...send that child to summer camp. With the advent of financial stressors in the economy it is more critical now than ever to give to our scholarship fund. Go to our web



site: www.pocconoplateau.org and click on "Scholarship Giving" to make a difference in the life of a boy or girl. This one thing you do, will change a life FOREVER!

Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center

304 Pocono Plateau Road, Cresco, PA 18326

camp@pocconoplateau.org / www.pocconoplateau.org 570.676.3665 phone / 570.676.9388 fax

My Life as a Director on the Hill—Part II

By Kara Stuebing

This past summer we had two new Directors on the Hill for Junior High Adventure Camp. Tammy Newberry and Kara Stuebing covered for Matt Hoffert while he was away on his honeymoon. Last issue we were graced to have Tammy's impressions of this valuable volunteer ministry here at the Plateau. The second portion of this article—from Kara—appears in this newsletter, below.

Directing a week at summer camp had to have been one of the best experiences of my life. I had the opportunity to work with an amazing co-director who balanced out my weaknesses with her strengths. The two of us had so much fun seeing camp for the first time through the eyes of directors.

Having counseled for years, we kind of had a clue, but I think we were both surprised by how much we enjoyed the week as directors. For me, camp has always been about building relationships. As a camper, the people I looked forward to seeing all year long were other campers and counselors.

As a staff member, I made friendships that have endured many miles and years. As a counselor, I always enjoyed the relationships built with my campers and co-counselors. This summer I was concerned that I would lack the opportunity to get to know the kids. Instead, we were blessed with the opportunity to get to know all of our campers, our counselors, other directors, summer staff and permanent staff.

We really got to appreciate the dynamics of the different campsites. We were able to interact with so many more people and really experience what makes camp so amazing. As new directors, we were supported by the directors of the other camps that were going on the same week. They checked in with us, encouraged us, and even offered to help when they were able. Summer staff was amazing. Things showed up when they needed to for games and activities and disappeared when the activity was done.

The Hill Crew took great care of the lodge and were on top of all our needs for the sites. Much of the success of the week goes to those who spend their summer serving campers. The rest of the success, we attribute to phenomenal counselors. Veteran counselors really stepped up to help. And our first time counselors did a great job jumping in and helping lead Bible studies and activities.

That being said, the bulk of what we did was planning ahead of time. We made sure we were organized enough to have everyone on the same page for what was going on every day. The week of camp we made sure to visit each site at lunch time.

We ran daily site challenges, and conducted brief counselor meetings. We attended morning meetings with other directors and staff. We made ourselves available for both counselors and campers. We had a lot of fun. It was great to be able to fully experience the week at camp and to see it from a new angle.



Focus Newsletter Is Available in “Paperless” Format

The Focus newsletter is available in both print and digital formats. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, instead of regular mail, please contact the camp office. Or you can download it from our website.

570-676-3665 / camp@poconoplateau.org

Or download at: **www.poconoplateau.org**

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- Romans viii, 38 - 39.

Program News

By Glendon Carper,

Winter brings many of the usual outside activities to a standstill. So what happens in the winter? I have been busy preparing for summer, setting up summer staff interviews, processing volunteer applications, and making contact with the Program Directors. If you are planning to volunteer for a week this summer, please remember to complete your application as soon as possible. I have also been able to sort through some of our program equipment that has not been used lately. If anyone would be interested in the following: camping cookware, GPS unit, Recurve Bow, Butane canisters, or a camping stove, please contact me at glendon@poconoplateau.org. I would also like to invite you to bring your group to Pocono Plateau for a weekend retreat or day event to experience our Adventure Program. We offer activities for those 6th grade – Adult and would welcome the opportunity to serve your group.

Don't miss out on
SUMMER CAMP
The full brochure is online at
www.poconoplateau.org
or call for a paper copy
570.676.3665



Woodcutters

Join us for our
WOODCUTTER DAYS

30 April 2011

9:00 -4:00

LUNCH IS PROVIDED

Contact Dan at:

dan@poconoplateau.org

1-570-676-3665

Firewood is always a necessity here at camp. Hoping for 20+ cords of wood for winter to supply our two outdoor wood burners - the meeting room fireplaces. All are welcome. Rain date is 14 May 2011.



Partners in Ministry

YES, I/We would like to become a contributing partner in the ministry of
Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center.

I/We would like the enclosed gift of: \$_____ to go toward:

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

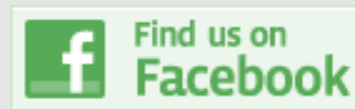
Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home Church: _____

- General Operating Fund
- Plateau Scholarship
- Other:
- Adventure Site Cabin
- Adventure Site Bathhouse

Please make your tax deductible gift payable to "Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center" and mail it with this completed form to:
Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center / 304 Pocono Plateau Road / Cresco / PA / 18326

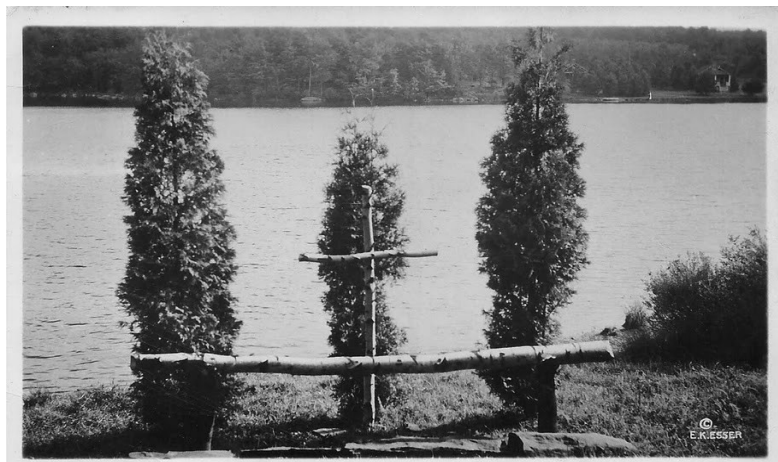
Don't forget to follow us
on Facebook, Twitter, and
LinkedIn



65 Years of Serving Christ 1946—2011



Sixty-five years ago Pocono Plateau began its ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The property was acquired by a group of clergy and laity committed “to provide for and to promote the religious, moral, social and physical welfare of children, youth and adults according to the highest standards of accepted evangelical Methodist doctrines.” (Pocono Plateau Christian Association Charter) Pocono Plateau has seen many changes over the last 65 years: the tripling in the number of buildings on the property, the growth of the ministry into a year-round facility, and yearly service to over 3,500 children, youth and adults. One thing that remains unchanged is Pocono Plateau’s mission to provide an environment for all ages to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Celebrating 65 Years...



POCONO PLATEAU
of Camping Ministry

Join us this fall as we take time to celebrate the Plateau’s ministry of providing life-changing opportunities through

Jesus. *Pocono Plateau will host a 65th Anniversary Celebration at the camp on Sunday afternoon, September 25, 2011. Mark your calendar and look for event information in the upcoming months.*



Have you seen these photos before?

<https://sites.google.com/a/poconoplateau.org/history-of-the-pocono-plateau/gallery>

Upcoming Retreats at the Plateau!

Dangerous Retreat for Boys and Men—Friday, April 29, 7pm - Sunday, May 1, 2 pm For boys in grades 3 - 9 with their dad. Another DANGEROUS RETREAT for Boys (and Dads). This is our fourth year for the dangerous retreat. This year will be more dangerous and exciting than before! From the moment you arrive, we will celebrate boyhood and fatherhood by exploring the adventurous side of life and getting back to the basics of how God made us BOYS AND MEN. Participate in some Dangerous activities. Investigate some Dangerous stories. Enjoy some plain old fun - indoors and out! Program Director is Jesse Skaggs. Storyteller: Chill Kuhn. **Cost \$90 - Dad; \$85 - Son**

Fly Fishing Retreat—Friday, April 29, 7pm - Sunday, May 1, 2 pm We will have a blast on this retreat. Our Director, Dan Helm, has many years of fly fishing experience and will be sharing that know-how with us. The retreat will focus on casting, knot tying, fly tying, and fly fishing strategies. Ages 12 - 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Program Director is Dan Helm **Cost: \$105**

Mother / Daughter Retreat—Friday, May 20, 7pm - Sunday, May 22, 2 pm For girls in grades 6-12 with their mom. LIVING WATERS: The Power to Change! A weekend of refreshment and adventure for mothers and their daughters grades 6-12. Come for a weekend that will allow you to focus on God's Holy Breath in our lives. Spend some time together playing, snacking, crafting, resting, praying, eating, hiking, worship deep. Spend some time together strengthening your relationship as mothers and daughters and your relationship with God. Program Director is Carrie Patterson. **Cost: \$90 - Mom; \$85 - Daughter**

OPEN HOUSE—Sunday, May 22, 1—4 pm Come and see the camp during our open house. Meet with staff, take a tour, ask all those questions you have about our program. This is your chance to see the camp before you come to camp for summer camp.

2011 Senior Adult Retreat Tuesday, October 4, 10 am - Friday, October 7, 10 am A FALL get-away for all senior adults aged 55 and above. Come enjoy the beautiful fall foliage of Pocono Plateau! Learn God's Word through Bible study. Participate in our book swap, craft making, participate in an adventure program, guided tour of our Morrison Nature Walk, sing camp songs, off camp excursion, enjoy our evening campfire with s'mores and our other evening entertainment. Program Director is Glendon Carper. Bible Studies led by Reverend John Lutz, Langhorne United Methodist Church. **Cost: \$165**

2011 Men's Retreat—November 11, 7pm - November 13, 2 pm Men's Retreat – An event you will not want to miss. A retreat for men to come and connect with other men, be challenged, and enjoy the wilderness of Pocono Plateau. Program Director is Rob Loughery **Cost: \$105**

2011 Junior + Senior High Retreat, December 29, 7pm - December 31, 2 pm Reconnect with friends and summer staff, worship times, winter gaga, challenging sessions, indoor & outdoor games, sledding, broom ball, and ice skating all packed into three days. Come check out the Plateau in the winter and be part of a great retreat. **Cost: \$95**

2012 Young Adult Retreat, January 6, 7pm - January 8, 2 pm This retreat is for Young Adults of all walks of life. The retreat will provide you with opportunities to grow in faith, hope, and love. It will also offer fellowship with other young adults seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ. Come out and enjoy this weekend of worship, fellowship, and fun in the beautiful setting of Camp Pocono Plateau. **Cost: \$85**

2012 Children's Winter Jamboree, January 13, 7pm - January 15, 2 pm A winter weekend retreat for children in grades 3-6. Reconnect with friends and summer staff, worship times, winter gaga, Bible Sessions, indoor & outdoor games, sledding, broom ball, ice skating, crafts, and silly songs all packed into a weekend of fun. Summer staff will serve as counselors for this retreat. Program Director is Glendon Carper **Cost: \$95**

Sign up
TODAY!

Retreat Registration

Child's Name _____ Nickname: _____
 Current Grade: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Male / Female
 Parent's Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____
 Bunkmate Requests: _____

I would like to attend:

- Father and Son Retreat
- Fly Fishing Retreat
- Mother Daughter Retreat
- Autumn Senior Retreat
- Men's Fall Retreat
- Jr. and Sr. High Retreat
- Young Adult Retreat
- Children's Winter Jamboree

A \$50.00 non refundable deposit is required with this registration form. The balance is payable at check-in.

Please make checks payable to: Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center.

Mail to: Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center, 304 Pocono Plateau Road, Cresco, PA 18326

Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center
304 Pocono Plateau Road
Cresco, PA 18326

Phone: 570.676.3665
Fax: 570.676.9388
Email: camp@poconoplateau.org
Website: www.poconoplateau.org

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Randolph, NY



Make secure online donations
through **PayPal** at our website:
www.poconoplateau.org

- One Time Donations
- Recurring Monthly

Big Savings



If you attended a 2011 summer camp event at Pocono Plateau and you refer a new camper this year, you may receive a \$25 discount off of

your 2011 registration fee; refer 2 campers and receive a \$50 discount; refer 3 campers and get a \$100 discount. You must contact the camp office, prior to registration, to receive specific referral details in order to receive the discount. Also, your friend must complete the "First-time Camper" section on the registration with your name. Siblings are exempt from this discount.

Wish List

- 10 Replacement brooms for Broom Ball—\$5.00 each
- 12 Frisbees for Frisbee Golf—\$5.00 each
- 12 Carabineers for Adventure Program—\$17.00 each
- 6 Belay Devices—\$18.00 each
- 3 Zorbers—\$25.00 each
- 2 GPS units—\$90.00 each
- New or used (good condition) vehicles
- Sleds
- Fabric paint + glue
- Duct tape and masking tape
- String for friendship bracelets

If you are interested in donating any of these items or funds toward the purchase of these items, please contact the Pocono Plateau Camp Office at: 570.676.3665.