

CAMP MANATAWNY NEWSLETTER

2024 SUMMER RECAP, CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS, NEW CABIN USAGE, NEW ROOFS AND ENTRANCE ROAD, FALL EVENTS, NOW HIRING – E.D. SEARCH, NEW STAFF, APPRECIATION AWARDS, SOJOURNER PROJECTS

Chairman's Corner: A Season of Faith, Friendship, and Family at Camp Manatawny *By Dave Smith, Chairman of the Board*



Dear Fellow Camp Manatawny Family,

As the vibrant colors of fall sweep across our beautiful campgrounds in Douglassville, Pennsylvania, we look back and give thanks for another unforgettable summer season and a year filled with blessings. In the 2024 sessions, Camp Manatawny welcomed 631 campers, supported by 449 dedicated volunteers, all of whom worked together to make these seven weeks nothing short of remarkable.

Our campers came from near and far, but no matter where they were from, they left as one—bound by faith, strengthened by friendship, and inspired by Christ. From the moment they set foot on our camp, they became part of something bigger than themselves. What makes Camp Manatawny special, in addition to the activities and the stunning landscape, are the connections that are formed here. The friendships, the camaraderie, and the spiritual growth last far beyond the summer.

This year, we had the pleasure of adding to our classic camps with events that brought families and individuals of all ages together. Our Men's Retreat, Ladies Retreat, and Spring Jr/Sr High Retreat were all tremendous successes, drawing hearts closer to Christ while fostering the personal bonds that make our camp community unique. The most exciting addition to our camp schedule was our very first Fall Family Retreat.



We saw entire families come together to laugh, learn, and grow in their faith—building memories that will be treasured for a lifetime. At the heart of every retreat—whether for men, women, or families—is the powerful sense of unity, where strangers become friends, and families deepen their faith together.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Rental Promotion

Giving Tuesday & End-of-Year Giving

From Dec 3-31, 2024

for college-aged young adults and high school seniors

Winter Retreat

Dec 29, 2024 to Jan 1, 2025



Camp Manatawny, 33 Camp Road, Douglassville, PA 19518
 Telephone: (610)-707-2267 [DVCC]
 Camp website: www.manatawny.org

www.facebook.com/Manatawny/
www.instagram.com/campmanatawny/
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Chairman's Corner [continued from page 1]

We received many messages from grateful parents, like this one:

I am thankful that my three children and (my) nephew had another great year of learning and friendship building at camp. I'm thankful for all of the willing workers and hope to be a part of the working crew next camp season. May God continue to bless you and all who lead this ministry."

Testimonies like this remind us why we do what we do. Camp Manatawny is more than just a place—it's a ministry. It's a home away from home where campers and volunteers come to build connections with both God and each other.

As always, our camp is guided by our core values: to be Christ-centered in everything we do, to uphold integrity with honesty and consistency, and to foster personal Christian morality in every camper and volunteer who joins us. These values are the foundation of our mission: to glorify God and transform lives for Christ for a lifetime.

To our dedicated volunteers, whether you served in the kitchen, taught a Bible class, led an activity, or simply lent a listening ear to a camper, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are the hands and feet of Christ at Camp Manatawny, and we are incredibly blessed to have you.

As we prepare for the seasons ahead, we know that there are even greater memories to be made and friendships to be formed. We look forward to seeing many of you again for another year of ministry, connection, and transformation.

May God continue to bless each of you and the mission of Camp Manatawny.

With warmest regards and deepest gratitude,
Dave
Chairman of the Board, Camp Manatawny



Recap of Summer 2024

By Andy Mychajlowycz,, Executive Director



Thanks to all your prayers, efforts and generous giving, the Lord blessed us tremendously during the 2024 Summer Season and throughout the year. We had 631 registrations in our Overnight and Day Camp programs and over 450 volunteer staff. Although we were down by nearly 10% in Summer Session registrations, we are up so far over by over 15% for all other Camp events throughout the rest of the year!

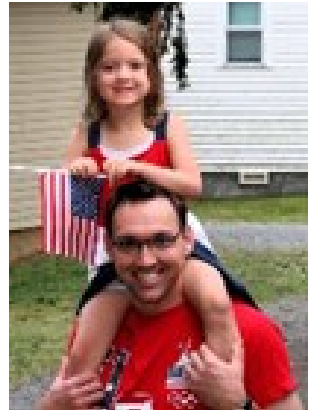
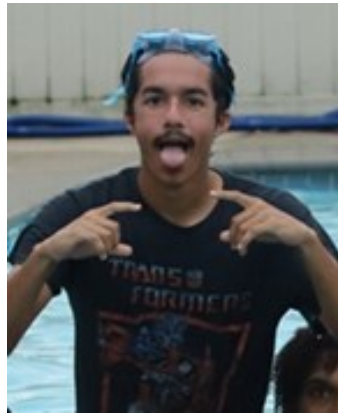
As it reminds us several times in the Old Testament, our devotion to God's message at Camp continues to lead to God's multi-generational blessings. We continue to see people attending Camp from the same families into the fourth and fifth generation—attending programs and events, serving as volunteer staff, running our summer Summer Sessions and other Camp events, and even serving as Board Members.

We had 135 first-time campers this summer and awarded over \$18,000 in financial assistance (Campships and other aid) to 109 kids from families that needed financial help in 2024. All of this was only possible because of your exceedingly generous financial donations. In fact, through your aid and other income generating events (church retreats, Camp-sponsored retreats, family events, other group camps, and school events), Camp was able to support our Summer Camp program to the tune of over \$150,000 more than the income Camp received from registrations. We also had 2 dozen supporting congregations pay in full or in part for children to attend our Summer Sessions.

During our 2024 Summer Sessions, we continued to have delicious food, Bible classes and memory work, worship and devotionals, Bible buzzer competitions, swimming and creek walks, hiking and fishing, riflery and archery, horseback riding and zip lining, athletics and volleyball, bottle rockets and talent shows, obstacle courses and hikes, senior celebration dinners, and much more.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for enabling us to share the love of Christ with so many children and for living out Camp's mission—transforming lives for Christ for a lifetime.

Some Summer Session Photos



Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

A Second Family Camp!

Over the last several years, Family Camp over Memorial Day weekend in the Spring has become the most attended Camp event. Many families have come to Family Camp to check out what the Camp experience might be like for the little ones who will be starting their attendance at Summer Sessions. They have filled every cabin at Camp, their own RV campers, and even camping tents. In fact, it has been so popular that most people have even given up trying to find a space.

To find an adequate solution, we have decided to have a second Family Camp over Labor Day weekend in the late summer / early fall. This year, what we call Fall Family Camp was a popular and huge success. 89 people came to Fall Family Camp experiencing all that Family Camp has to offer, including some unique activities, like a crazy photo challenge.

Normally, we have almost 200 people come to Spring Family Camp, so having nearly 90 people attend Fall Family Camp was a huge success. Whenever we start a new event at Camp and have more than 20 people attend the first time, we consider it a success. So, it looks like we blew the doors off the Fall Family Camp!

Just like Spring Family Camp runs concurrently with Camp Open House on Memorial Day Saturday, Fall Family Camp ran concurrently with Staff Appreciation Day, which had over 110 volunteer staffers attend! So we had over 200 at Camp simultaneously during the wildly popular Fall Family Camp weekend.

The new Fall Family Camp director team included Billy Shiplet, Meta Christaldi, Sarah and David Hulick, and Collin and Moriah Swenson. They did a fantastic job and introduced many new ideas to the Family Camp experience.

Here are some photos (including some of the funny photos) that we captured at Fall Family Camp.





Fall Junior / Senior High Retreat

Our Junior / Senior High Retreat has been popular for many years. Several years ago we decided to have it twice each year—in the Spring and in the Fall. And although most of our retreats are only 1 night long, we have decided to have our Fall Junior / Senior High Retreat for two nights over a long weekend—Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day Weekend. Our longer event is now organized by Stephen Tupitza and attendees are coming from far away (from a dozen different states). This year’s Fall Retreat had some powerful speakers and lots of fun activities enjoyed by 76 teens.





The Return of the Singles Retreat

The Singles Retreat was a fixture at Camp Manatawny for many years and was the place that many notable Camp spouses first met, But as all popular events, this one faded into the Camp sunset ... until this year. The Singles Retreat came back to Manatawny this year, better than ever. A dedicated group of 31 singles came together at Camp from many different states and spanning a broad range of ages. It was organized by two of our board members—Jay Corbett and Brooks Brown; and it was directed by a couple that originally met at the earlier Singles Retreat at Camp— Charles and Carla Fuller. A great time was experienced by one and all.



WE ARE HIRING



Join Our Team



Executive Director

Responsibilities: : Will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for Camp Manatawny's staff, programs, expansion, and execution of its mission. Will oversee and implement core programs, operations, and business plans.

Duration: : Full-time, salaried.

Benefits include:

- Salary dependent on experience. Vacation days and paid holidays.

See job description at www.manatawny.org/employment

Complete application and email to EDSearch@manatawny.org



A Grateful Farewell and New Staff Members Join the Camp Office Team

After several years, Becky Bleivik, our Bookkeeper and later our Office Manager, said goodbye to our Camp team at the end of October, 2024. We also welcomed two new team members—Abigail Rymon, our new Bookkeeper, and Nicole Ahearn, our new Office Assistant.



Becky Bleivik, Departing Office Manager



Abigail Rymon, New Bookkeeper



Nicole Ahearn, New Office Assistant

Staff Appreciation Day Awards Dinner

THANK YOU
*for the lives you touch
 we appreciate you*
SO MUCH

At the conclusion of our Summer Sessions, Camp had our annual Staff Appreciation Awards Dinner. At this dinner, we thanked our Director Teams and Office Staff, honored some special award recipients, and celebrated with our Board Members, representatives from Sponsoring Churches, and long-time members of the Camp community.

The dinner was held in the evening, following our Staff Appreciation Day on August 31. It was catered by an external catering company and served by our Board Members.

Over 110 people attended the Staff Appreciation Day and the subsequent dinner celebration.

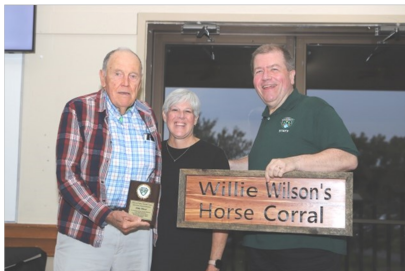
The following award recipients were selected by the Board:



Kathy Ashton presenting to INT Directors



Andy presenting to Board Award Recipients



Horse Corral Dedication



Recipients of Above & Beyond Award



Matawny Mark presenting Reflecting Jesus Award to Big Mac & Evelyn and Jim & Carol Bailey (posthumously)



Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Lynn & Dierdra Evans

Green Rock Award

Awarded to the Summer Session Week with the greatest number of campers registered (116)

Recipients: **Intermediate Week Directors Team**
Jonathan & Hayley Woodall and Jodi Fox

Board Award

In recognition of your tireless dedication and faithful service to Camp Manatawny and to its mission...
Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Recipients: **Andrew Cooper – former Board Chairman**
Brian Roberts – former Board Treasurer
Becky Bleivik – former Camp Office Manager
Carl Steiner – longtime E1 volunteer
Tara Earomirski – longtime kitchen volunteer

Horse Corral Dedication

Recipients: **Willie Wilson – longtime horse handler**

Above and Beyond Award

In recognition of your willingness to go above and beyond through your personal sacrifice, sleepless nights, patient endurance, Godly humility, and timely service to Camp Manatawny and to its mission...
Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Recipients: **Bob Jacques**
(built bunks for new cabin)
Roseann Savastano
(built cubbies for new cabin)

Reflecting Jesus Award

In recognition of your active service, where there is a need.
Jesus stopped and called them, saying,
“What do you want me to do for you?” (Matthew 20:32)

Recipient: **Ron & Evelyn McFarland**
Jim & Carol Bailey (posthumously)

Lifetime Achievement Award

In recognition of...
 your obedience to our Lord,
 your humility before others,
 your sacrifice to those in need,
 your focus on the path God has laid out for you, and
 your love for the precious little ones,
 we extend our sincere & heartfelt gratitude to you for your lifetime of service to Camp Manatawny and to its mission...

Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime!

Recipients: **Lynn & Dierdra Evans**

Sojourners 2024



At the end of August and into September, a group of Sojourners were at Camp for two weeks completing many facilities projects and performing a number of maintenance tasks. Among the many projects they completed, the most important one was the construction of two storage areas inside the Multipurpose building. Not only do the group of Sojourners come to Camp in their RVs each year to help us out with many essential facility tasks, they also pay for much of the construction material that they use on their many projects. Camp management expresses our sincere thanks to all the Sojourners for this annual commitment and for working so diligently at Camp and making it look so good. May God bless you in all your efforts!



New Entrance Road into Camp

For those of you who came to Camp this summer, you may have noticed that we paved the main entrance road! No more potholes marking your arrival at our little slice of heaven. I received many compliments from members of the Camp community that we were finally able to do this. Other areas of road surface at Camp will slowly be paved in the next couple of years (like the road to the Staff House) as we have the money to do so.

But the extremely amusing story is that we received two calls from members of the Camp community to complain that we eliminated the potholes on the entrance road to Camp! We understand the extreme hesitancy that some have about the changes we're slowly making at Camp because they love the traditions and nostalgia of this special place. But some practical changes (like doing away with the awful bumpiness experienced by your car suspension when you arrive at Camp) have to take place in order to do away with this jarring tradition!

Over the past two years, we have seen many changes around Camp. Garrett Hall roof was replaced. Bailey Dining Hall was replaced as well. In fact, most of the large buildings at Camp had their roofs replaced. And soon we will see another roof replacement take place on the Bear's Den Cabin and the Gazebo.

We have also seen the Horse Corral moved, 4 additional RV sites built near the Camp office, a memorial wall constructed, and construction of the first New Cabin take place on the Boys' town side of Camp. At some point in the future, when we have the funds on hand, we will begin construction of the first New Cabin on the Girls' town side of Camp.

We love when Camp looks good and, with your help and devotion, we hope to continue its mission (*Transforming Lives for Christ for a Lifetime*) for many years to come.

May God continue to bless Camp Manatawny and all it represents!



Winter Rental Promotion

Group
Gathering

Youth Group
Weekend

Ladies'
Retreat

Winter
Retreat

Family
Reunion

Hold a church/group event at Camp from November to February

Garrett Hall 50% off, Lodging 40% off, Food 10% off

Email rentals@manatawny.org or call (610) 707-DVCC [3822]
to see if you qualify and for more information.

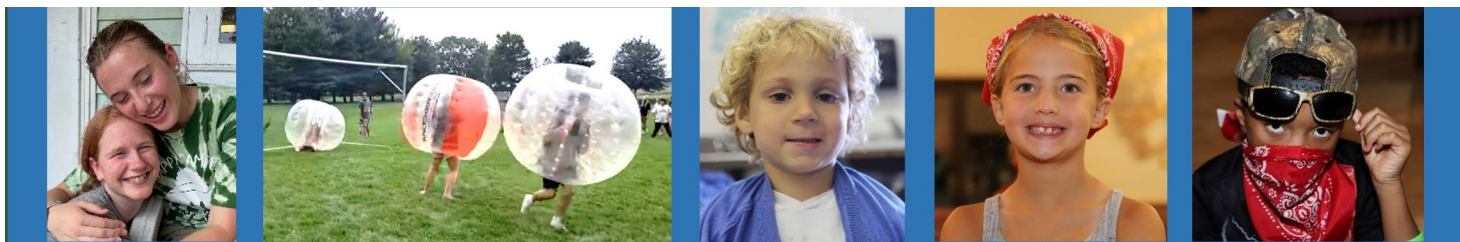
Giving Tuesday & End-of-Year Giving



From December 3-31, 2024



Camp Manatawny LiftU Young Adults Retreat Dec 29, 2024 - Jan 1, 2025



Registration Sunday Coming January 12, 2025



Multigenerational Blessing!

In the Old Testament God tells us that what we do TODAY will have an impact on future generations—either curse or blessing,

I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:5-6

Camp Manatawny has always lived this out—to be a multi-generational ministry demonstrating the love of Christ to everyone who participates in its programs and events. And in living out its mission for over 50 years, Camp has impacted and transformed lives for Christ under the guidance of God and experiencing His blessing. God is keeping his promise and we participate in that promise at Camp!

There are many families at Camp who have experienced this multi-generation blessing to the fourth or fifth generation. We continue to highlight those families in our Camp Newsletter periodically. In this issue, we focus on the Harrill Family who have lived out the multi-generational blessing of God through Camp Manatawny and throughout their years of service to our Lord!



Harrill Family

Camp Manatawny offers our heartfelt prayers for the recent passing of Gerald Harrill. Gerald and Inez Harrill (and many of their family members) have been long-time members of the Camp Community and volunteers at Camp. Gerald has served for many years at Camp Manatawny along with his wife, including as a volunteer staffer in the Canteen. He also demonstrated the love of Christ in many ways through his life and activities (especially as a teacher). Over many years, Gerald and Inez's family members have attended Camp, served as counselors, worked in the kitchen as chefs, volunteered in the Canteen, sent kids to Camp through their various congregations, and attended many Camp-sponsored events and Church retreats held at Camp.